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CAPT G. M. JOHNSON, USN  
OP-943C, X77259  
13 December 1973

6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WAR

OCTOBER 73 TO 13 December 1973

The following is a brief historical summary of Naval action which took place during the Israeli-Egyptian War of 1973.

OCT 73

1-10

6th Fleet Posture

2 CV/CVAs - 1 CL, 16 DDs, 2 AOs, 1 AOE, 1 AOG, 2 AFSS,  
1 ARS, 4 PGs, 1 AD, 1 AS, 2 LPD, 4 LSTs, 1 LPH, 1 ICC,  
1 AGP, 2 LSDs (TOTAL 47)

Total SIXTHFLT units consisted of: (5 Amphibious units  
were extended after exercise DEEP FURROW and FLINT LOCK)

INDEPENDENCE (CV-62); F.D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42);  
LITTLE ROCK (CLG-4); BELKNAP (DLG-26); COONTZ (DLG-9);  
DEWEY (DLG-14); YARNELL (DLG-17); BARRY (DD-933);  
SAMPSON (DDG-10); GOVER (AGDE-1); VREELAND (DE-1068);  
WOOD (DD-715); PAGE (DEG-5); McDONNELL (DE-1043);  
MANLEY (DD-940); TRIPPE (DE-1075); RICKETTS (DDG-5);  
HEWES (DE-1078); SIMS (DE-1059); MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20);  
GUADALCANAL (LPH-7); AUSTIN (LPD-4); MANITOWOC (LST-1180);  
BOULDER (LST-1190); FORT SNELLING (LSD-30);  
PENSACOLA (LSD-38); SUMTER (LST-1181); GRAHAM  
COUNTY (AGP-1176); HARLAN COUNTY (LST-1196); NASHVILLE (LPD-13)  
GRAND RAPIDS (PG-98); READY (PG-87); DOUGLAS (PG-100);  
ANTELOPE (PG-86); HOIST (ARS-40); PAWCATUCK (AO-108);  
SYLVANIA (AFS-2); TRUCKEE (AO-147); SEATTLE (AOE-3);  
CONCORD (AFS-5); NOXUBEE (AOG-56); GILMORE (AS-16);  
CASCADE (AD-16); BLUEFISH (SSN-675); LAPON (SSN-661);  
SILVERSIDES (SSN-679); TREPANG (SSN-674) (TOTAL 47)

11 Oct

JCS 111833Z and CINCLANTFLT 112253Z OCT 73, directed the positioning of a 3RD Task Group where they could be responsive to USCINCEUR in a minimum time. CINCLANTFLT directed SECONDFLT sail J. F. KENNEDY (CVA-67); DALE (DLG-19) SANSFIELD (DD-837); BYRD (DDG-23) and CALICOOSA HATCHER (AO-98), who are presently in Northern European ports, to sail on 13 October as TG 20.1 to a holding point 100 miles West of Gibraltar.

JCS 112203Z OCT 73 directed CINCLANTFLT to sail IWO JIMA (LPH-2) on 15 October from NORVA to MOOREHEAD CITY to load out with Marines and equipment and then proceed to SIXTHFLT.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont)

OCT 73

12 Oct COMNAVINTCOM 121710Z and CNO 122041Z OCT 73.  
CINCLANTFLT and CINCUSNAVEUR were tasked to direct Naval Control of Shipping (NCSO) and Reporting Officers (REPTOFF) under their control, to implement contingency MERSHIP reporting procedures for ships in the COMFAIRMED OCA areas. Once daily MERSHIP reports will assist completeness, accuracy and timeliness of locating data for contingency planning for the evacuation of U.S. citizens in the MIDEAST.

13+15 OCT USCINCEUR 130815Z OCT 73 requested JCS for immediate augment of MED SSN force with a SIGINT equipped Class 594 or later Class SSN. CINCLANT recommended augmenting by diverting FINBACK (SSN-670) from her present SPECOPS mission. USCINCEUR further recommended that MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC-20); PENSACOLA (LSD-38); MANITOWAC (LST-1180); BOULDER (LST-1190) and SUMTER (LST-1181) with embarked Marines be extended beyond their OUTCHOP date of 18 October. CINCLANT interposed no objection

JCS 132122Z and 140020Z; MAC 132105Z and CTG 60.2 140615Z OCT 73. The Military Airlift Command was directed to use C-5A's and C-141's to meet critical Israeli Defense Force requirements. On completion of the initial three C-5 and FIFTEEN C-141 deliveries to Tel Aviv, which began Sunday morning, additional flights will continue at a rate of four C-5's and 12 C-141 loads per day until further notice.

In order to provide surveillance and warning support of aircraft transiting the MED, USS YARNELL and USS RICKETTS have been directed to take PIRAZ ~~ations~~ as indicated:

USS YARNEL.....37-00N 00-30W  
USS RICKETTS.....38-00N 03-00E

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

OCT 73

13-15OCT CINCUSNAVEUR 141654Z OCT 73. In a planning message to CINCLANTFLT recommended following actions:

JCS APPROVAL

- (1) KENNEDY and 3 escorts brought into MED.
- (2) Other 4 escorts on Baltic Ops brought into MED.
- (3) Extend TREPANG beyond 10 Nov OUTCHOP providing 5 Trail Certified SSNs.

NAVY INITIATIVES WITHOUT JCS APPROVAL

- (1) Anti-Sam (SA-6) EW/Weapons - Standard Arm (AGM780) missiles and associated aircraft. Immed augment by either USMC E-6A or Navy EA-6B.
- (2) Require MOUNT BAKER (AE-34) soonest with additional AE on 48 hour standby on East Coast.
- (3) Extend SHENANDOAH (AD-26) beyond 9 Nov scheduled OUTCHOP.
- (4) Extend SYLVANIA (AFS-2) beyond 18 Nov scheduled OUTCHOP.
- (5) An AMCM-RH-530 helicopter detachment deployed by air.

COMSIXTHFLT 131934Z/142124Z and CINCUSNAVEUR 122330Z OCT 73 TG 60.1 continued to operate in the vicinity of the holding area South of Crete. P-3 aircraft from Souda Bay maintained SSSC and ASW protection for the Task Group

TG 60.2 operated in the Tyrrehenian Sea. DEWEY proceeding to new PIRAZ Station 36N - 17E.

TF 61/62 in Souda Bay anchorage and VERTREPED by the SYLVANIA yesterday.

TG 67.8 began periodic, non-provocative surveillance of Soviet units in Kithera and surrounding waters on Saturday. Surveillance was curtailed Sunday due to high winds and heavy seas.

TG 67.8

GRAHAM COUNTY (AGP-1176)  
ANTELOPE (PG-86)  
READY (PG-87)  
GRAND RAPIDS (PG-98)  
DOUGLAS (PG-100)

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

OCT 73

12-15 OCT SIXTHFLT utilized a race track pattern of POL resupply using AO's in a shuttle capacity. SEATTLE remained on station consolidating with the TRUCKEE lifting fuel from AUGUSTA.

TG 60.2 was resupplied by the PAUCATUCK.

15 OCT USCINCEUR 152121Z and COMSIXTHFLT 152035Z  
TG 60.1 continued to maintain a position South of Crete with the Flagship LITTLE ROCK. Authority was granted to move two DD type ships to vicinity of 34N/32E and 33-30N/30E for additional PIRAZ support.

TF 61/62 in the Souda Bay anchorages.

TG 60.2 operated in the Tyrrehenian

MCDONNELL relieved RICKETTS on PIREZ.

RICKETTS enroute new PIRAZ Station 38-15N,  
10-50E

(Total of 5 PIRAZ Stations)

TG 67.8 continued non-provocative surveillance of the Kithera area. Both the PAUCATUCK and the TRUCKEE enroute Augusta for fuel lifts. SEATTLE remained with TG 60.1. USS KENNEDY, approximately 150 miles West of Cork, Ireland continued her Southbound transit to the holding area West of Gibraltar.

JCS 152331 and 152330Z OCT 73.  
Augmentation of the Mediterranean SSN force by the USS FINBACK (SSN-670) still pending as JCS does not desire to GAP coverage of the patrol area presently assigned to the FINBACK. CINCLANT was asked for further recommendations to accommodate USCINCEUR's request for additional SSN. JCS approved, however, the retention beyond the scheduled 18 October OUT-CHOP of the five Amphibious Forces indicated:  
MT WHITNEY (LCC-20); PENSACOLA (LSD-38); MANITOWAC (LST 1180); BOULDER (LST-1190) and SUMTER (LST-1181).

USCINCEUR 151717Z. Decided to cancel the SILVER FOX operations scheduled 22-27 Oct 73 unless otherwise directed by JCS. Units consisted of MANLEY (DD-940) SIMS (DE-1059) and USS VREBLAND (DE-1068)

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

OCT 73

16 Oct TG 60.1 ROOSEVELT moved from the Tyrrhenian to a position Southeast of Sicily (36-00N 17-00E). Soudha based P-3's continued to provide SSSC and ASW protection to TG 60.1 during carrier non flying hours.

The tender SHENANDOAH (AO-26) enroute Athens, will arrive in Augusta 18 October to refuel and replenish.

Units assigned for surveillance and Early Warning support were in the positions indicated:

BELKNAP	34N 32E	RICKETTS 38-15N 10-50E
COONTZ	33.5N 30E	MCDONNELL 38-30N 04-00E
DEWEY	36N 17E	YARNELL 37-00N 00-30E

CINCLANT 161751Z to JCS recommended diverting SEA DEVIL (SSN-664) to augment MED SSN making total SSN in the MED 5.

17 Oct SIXTHFLT 172132Z. TG 60.1 operated in the holding area South of Crete with the Flagship LITTLE ROCK.

TG 60.2 operated Southeast of Sicily.

TF 61/62 was in anchorage at Soudha Bay and was replenished by the SYLVANIA today.

USSINCEUR 170415Z OCT 73. Airborne Radar surveillance and warning coverage in the East and West MED for aircraft transiting enroute Israel was provided from two principal staging bases; Rota and Athens. From Rota 3 EA-3B's, 1EC-121 and 2 EP-3 aircraft provided continuous West MED surveillance and warning. In the East MED 3 C-130's and one EP-3 aircraft from Athens provided orbiting coverage. USAFE was SAR responsible for the area of the MED West of 10 degrees East. NAVEUR SAR responsibility covered the area of the MED East of that line.

Search and rescue aircraft located at Rota included 2 HC-130 and 1 HH-53. SIXTHFLT ships and helicopters covered the Eastern MED area.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

OCT 73

17 Oct CTG 20.1 MSG 161216Z OCT 73. IWO JIMA (LPH-2) is approximately 600 miles East of Norfolk, scheduled to arrive in the holding area South of Crete on 26 Oct.

J. F. KENNEDY made a brief stop in Rota to pick up high priority material and personnel. SANSFIELD was in company.

18 OCT COMSIXTHFLT 181733Z OCT 73/USCINCEUR 161825Z OCT 73/ JCS 182206Z OCT 73 and CTG 20.1 190001Z OCT 73  
There were no significant changes in the location of major SIXTHFLT forces. KENNEDY arrived in the holding area West of Gibraltar.

USCINCEUR's request to retain SEATTLE (AOE-3) and the SHENANDOAH (AD-26) in the MED for the duration of the present contingency was approved by JCS. SEATTLE was scheduled to OUTCHOP on 31 October and the SHENANDOAH on 9 November.

CTF 67 171936Z OCT 73. Non-provocative and overt surveillance of Soviet and Soviet block merchant ships transiting from the Black Sea South to the Middle East area of conflict and all Soviet warships transiting the Kasos and Karpathos Straits and the Kithera and Andikithera Channels was established by four PG's assigned to TG 67.8. The GRAHAM COUNTY (AGP 1176) was positioned in Iraklion, Crete to provide support for the PG's. (TG 67.8 consists of GRAHAM COUNTY (AGP-1176); ANTELOPE (PG-86); READY (PG-87); GRAND RAPIDS (PG-98) and DOUGLAS (PG-100).

19-22 OCT The YARNELL, McDONNELL, RICKETTS, DEWEY, COONTZ and BELKNAP remained on their assigned surveillance and flight following picket stations. TF 60.1 remained in a holding position South of Crete. TF 60.2 operated Southeast of Sicily while ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) recovered and launched A-4 aircraft enroute to Israel. TF 61 and 62 were in Souda Bay. CALOOSAHATCHIE, entered the Med to refuel YARNELL and McDONNELL. CALOOSAHATCHIE is scheduled to proceed out of the Med to refuel INCHOPPING IWO JIMA, and then rejoin KENNEDY (CVA-67) and TG 20.1 in the holding area West of Gibraltar.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

19-22 OCT COMNAVAIRLANT 222133Z and CTG 60.2 221355Z OCT 73  
(Cont.) The first 6 cells of A-4 aircraft totalling 31  
planes arrived in Israel. One aircraft was re-  
covered by KENNEDY (CVA-67) while enroute from  
Lajes to the ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) because of a  
hydraulic malfunction, and one aircraft from  
cell 3 was retained on ROOSEVELT for minor repairs.  
This aircraft was later added to cell 5. The air-  
craft on KENNEDY and one remaining at Lajes are  
considered spares and do not affect the final total  
of 36 aircraft being sent. Cell 7, the final 5  
aircraft, is now enroute to ROOSEVELT. Disposition  
for the A-4 on KENNEDY is as yet undetermined.  
Pilots from the first 4 cells departed Israel  
aboard C-5A aircraft enroute to Dover AFB.

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CINCUSNAVEUR 222248Z OCT 73/COMSIXTHFLT 221931Z OCT  
Four INDEPENDENCE F-4s, under E-2 control, escorted  
Secretary of State Kissenger's aircraft in and out  
of Israel on Monday. The Secretary's aircraft was  
picked up overhead Cyprus and escorted to a point  
approximately 100 miles West of Israel where the  
fighters held until the VIP aircraft landed at Lod  
(Tel Aviv). F-4 fighter escort was also provided  
on the Secretary's outbound flight from 100 miles  
West of Israel to Crete. The entire evolution was  
incident free.

23 OCT COMSIXTHFLT 231921Z OCT 73/CINCUSNAVEUR 232246Z OCT  
TG 60.1 continued to operate within 50 nautical miles  
of it's holding position (34N, 26E) and monitored  
flights of U.S. transport/tactical aircraft and  
provided flight advisory and SAR support as  
necessary.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

23 OCT TG 60.2 is operated Southeast of Sicily while ROOSEVELT completed supporting the A-4 aircraft enroute to Israel. PAWCATUCK provided services to TG 60.2.

The majority of TF 61/62 units were in Souda Bay. The off-loading of 2 DEEP FURROW augmentation force ships (MANITOWOC and PENSACOLA) was suspended in view of the Cease Fire Agreement.

YARNELL, McDONNELL, RICKETTS, DEWEY, COONTZ and BELKNAP continued to operate on their surveillance and flight following picket stations. CALOOSHATCHEE refueled McDONNELL on station yesterday, and proceeded to refuel IWO JIMA this morning; upon completion she will rejoin TG 20.1 West of Gibraltar.

CTG 60.2 240740Z OCT 73. Cell 7, composed of the last five A-4 aircraft being transferred to Israel departed the ROOSEVELT enroute Egmon Air Base. The aircraft are scheduled to arrive at 0700 Washington time. All USN markings are being removed from the A-4's in Israel. The spare A-4's, one on KENNEDY and one at Lajes, are reported to be in an up status. Their disposition is not yet determined.

IWO JIMA joined SIXTHFLT units as an LPH augmentee. Present SIXTHFLT Force level consists of: 2 carriers; 1 cruiser; 16 destroyers; 12 amphibious; 6 Service force; 4 PGs; 4 auxiliaries; 5 submarines. TOTAL 50

24 OCT JCS set worldwide DEFCON 3 early this morning.

TG60.1 operated in the vicinity of it's holding position (34N, 26E).

TG 60.2 proceeded East to join TG 60.1.

TF 61/62 was directed to get underway and proceed to TG 60.1's holding position.

TG 20.1 enroute Med scheduled INCHOP 25 Oct 73.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

24 OCT The U.S. flag cargo ship SS LASALLE enroute Djibouti stopped after receiving two long shots across her bow by an unknown man-of-war in the vicinity of Jabal al Tai Island in the Red Sea.

The C.F. ADAMS (DDG-2) sailed from Djibouti under CINCUSNAVEUR's direction to escort LA SALLE to it's destination. The ADAMS is presently escorting the SS JAMES to a Friday arrival in Jidda.

In the Eastern Atlantic the four destroyers of TG 100.1 completed their Baltic Sea operations. Three ships scheduled to visit Portsmouth and the fourth, Rotterdam.

TG 100.1 consists of CONYNGHAM (DDG-17)  
MONTGOMERY (DE-1082); NEW (DD-818);  
GLENNON (DD-840).

The Cruiser NEWPORT NEWS, with COMSECONDFLT embarked visited Rotterdam. Her next scheduled port of call is Lisbon, Portugal.

25 OCT COMSIXTHFLT 252103Z OCT 73. TG 60.2 joined TG 60.1 in the holding area (34N, 26E) South of Crete early this morning.

TG 60.1 consisted of INDEPENDENCE (CV-62); LITTLE ROCK (CLG-4); VREELAND (DE-1068) and COONTZ (DLG-9)

TG 60.2 consisted of F.D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42); TRIPPE (DE-1075); HEWES (DE-1078) and DEWEY (DLG-14)

TG 20.1 INCHOPPED to SIXTHFLT and reported to CTF 60 as TG 60.3 yesterday and went to station about 80 miles Southeast of Sardinia. TG 60.3 consisted of J.F.KENNEDY (CVA-67); DALE (DLG-19); BYRD (DDG-23) and SANSFIELD (DD-837).

The majority of TF 61 units were enroute to the holding area South of Crete. IWO JIMA is scheduled to arrive in the holding area Saturday afternoon. TF 61/62 consisted of MT WHITNEY (LCC-20); GUADALCANAL (LPH-7); IWO JIMA (LPH-2); NASHVILLE (LPD-13); AUSTIN (LPD-4); FORT SNELLING (LSD-30); HARLAN COUNTY (LST-1196) PENSACOLA (LSD-38); MANITOWOC (LST-1180); SUMTER (LST-1181).

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

25 OCT The surveillance and flight following picket stations were relocated as follows: BELKNAP (34N, 28E) and YARNELL (37-30N, 001E).

The JCS directed the repositioning of various forces to enhance our level of readiness.

In the Eastern Atlantic, the four destroyers of TG 100.1 are enroute to the Med.

In CONUS four SSN's were ordered to the Med with the requirement to INCHOP within eight days of their sailing. One SSN departed Charleston this date and two are scheduled to depart from Charleston and one from Norfolk tomorrow. The SSN's are: SEAHORSE (SSN669) SHARK (SSN-591); SAND LANCE (SSN-660) and RAY (SSN-653).

Additionally in CONUS, CINCLANT informed the JCS that his intentions were to sail more SSBN's.

In the Pacific, TG 77.6 is proceeding to a holding point (01-20N, 105-30E) approximately 75 miles East of Singapore arriving Saturday afternoon. TG 77.6 consisted of HANCOCK (CVA-19); PREBLE (DLG-15); GRAY (DE-1054); STRAUSS (DDG-16); McCORMICK (DDG-8) and BAGLEY (DE-1079), KAWISHIWI (AO-146).

26-28 OCT FLTOCCNAVEUR LONDON 290100Z OCT 73/COMSIXTHFLT 281906Z OCT 73. SIXTHFLT units continued in Readiness Condition THREE. COMSIXTHFLT formed the CVA's into two Carrier Groups South of Crete. The two carriers in Carrier Group ALFA operated within a circle of 8 nautical mile radius divided along the wind line. The KENNEDY transited the Med from Gibraltar without Soviet surveillance ships in direct surveillance, and P-3 aircraft provided around the clock ASW/SSSC support to both Carrier Groups. The two A-4s that remained at Lajes, following delivery of the initial 36 aircraft, flew to the KENNEDY and thence to Israel on 28 Oct 73. After departing KENNEDY they were refueled enroute by tanker aircraft from Carrier Group ALFA.

Carrier Group ALFA consists of INDEPENDENCE (CV-62), F.D.ROOSEVELT (CVA-42), COONTZ (DLG-9), MANLEY (DD940) R.L.PAGE (DEG-5), SAMPSON (DDG-10), VREELAND (DE-1068), W.S.SIMS (DE-1059) and TRUCKEE (AO-147).

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

26-28 OCT Carrier Group BRAVO consists of J.F.KENNEDY, R.E. BYRD, DALE, SANSFIELD, CALOOSAHATCHEE, They are scheduled to be joined by E. MONTGOMERY, NEW, GLENNON, CONYNGHAM (INCHOP 291500Z).

TF61/62 are being escorted by LITTLE ROCK, W.M. WOOD, BARRY, McDONNELL, TRIPPE and HEWES.

Indian Ocean augmented ships TG 77.6 remained on station about 75 miles East of Singapore. The TG consisted of HANCOCK, PREBLE, McCORMICK, GRAY and BAGLEY. (b)(1)

(b)(1)

29 OCT COMSIXTHFLT 291711Z OCT 73. CONYNGHAM, NEW, MONTGOMERY and GLENNON chopped to COMSIXTHFLT and are now enroute to a 2 November arrival at the holding area South of Crete to joint with the KENNEDY Task Group.

Carrier Groups ALFA and BRAVO continued round-the-clock air operations in the same disposition reported yesterday. TF-63 oilers continued their shuttle to Augusta Bay for fuel lifts in support of TF 60 and 61.

Four SSN's continued their Atlantic transits with INCHOP dated of 2, 3 and 4 November.

NEWPORT NEWS in port Lisbon until Friday.

CTF-73 291530Z OCT 73/CTG 77.6 291920Z OCT 73. In the Indian Ocean, C.F.ADAMS moved to the vicinity of MASSAWA and conducted local operations. (b)(1)

HANCOCK and her escorts cleared the Strait of Malacca enroute to the holding point South of Sri Lanka.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

29 OCT At present fuel consumption rates KAWISHIWI has fuel for TG support for 7 days. KANSAS CITY will be the follow-on replenishment oiler with ASHTABULA, MISPELLION and WICHITA scheduled to join the mobile logistics support force supply train. The VEGA and the AFS WHITE PLAINS scheduled to provide provisions and general stores support.

JCS 282320Z OCT 73/COMIDEASTFOR 281356Z OCT 73  
The Carrier Task Group TG-77.6 that was positioned East of Singapore on 26 October was directed to proceed at 16 knots via the Malacca Strait to a holding point approximately 100 miles South of Sri Lanka. The JCS have advised that further instructions will be provided prior to the Task Group's arrival at the holding point.

30 OCT COMSIXTHFLT 301908Z OCT 73. COMSIXTHFLT moved disposition center, 22, to the Southwest of its initial position and realigned Carrier Groups ALFA and BRAVO to gain sea room West and Southwest of Crete. Task Force 61 divided into two Groups for night steaming West and North of the position indicated. These moves were expected to complicate Soviet surveillance and targeting efforts. Carrier Group ALFA was under surveillance by 2 KASHIN, a KYNDA, a SVERDLOV, a KOTLIN, an AGI, and the UGRA with COMSOVMEDFLT aboard. Carrier Group BRAVO was under surveillance by one KOTLIN and one KASHIN.

In the Indian Ocean TG 77.6 consisting of HANCOCK, BAGLEY, OVELLET, McCORMICK, PREBLE and KAWISHIWI continued their Indian Ocean transit to the prescribed point of Sri Lanka.

31 OCT JCS 301948Z OCT 73/CINCLANT 301430Z OCT 73  
DEFCON THREE was relaxed at 0500Z in EUCOM and LANTCOM except for the SIXTHFLT. On a worldwide basis, SIXTHFLT remained in DEFCON THREE, the Strategic Air Command were in normal DEFCON FOUR condition and WESTPAC Commands were in DEFCON FOUR.

SSBN's that were sent to sea during the recent alert were being returned to port to resume their upkeep periods.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

31 OCT COMSIXTHFLT 312107Z OCT 73. Disposition Center ZZ for TF 60 was moved to 35-15N, 21-30W. The Carrier Task Groups operated in a random fashion within 50 nautical miles of ZZ. BELKNAP and YARNELL remained on their surveillance and flight following stations monitoring U.S. transport flights to and from Israel. Task Group Composition was TG 60.1, INDEPENDENCE, MANLEY, PAGE, VREELAND. TG 60.2 consists of ROOSEVELT, COONTZ, RICKETTS, SIMS and SAMPSON. TG 60.3 consists of KENNEDY, DALE, DYRD, SANSFIELD.

The CONYINGHAM Group is scheduled to join KENNEDY tomorrow. The MT BAKER INCHOPPED.

Round the clock air ops continued including CAP, SURCAP, P-3, S-2 and USAF C-130 RECCE flights.

In the Indian Ocean, C.F. ADAMS continued local ops in the Southern Red Sea, McCANDLESS was enroute Karachi, Pakistan and LASALLE was in Port Bahrain. The WHIPPLE departed Colombo Sri Lanka enroute to Singapore.

HANCOCK and her escorts were directed by the JCS to increase their SOA from 16 to 20 kts. The new ETA at the holding point South of Sri Lanka is Friday at 1100Z. KAWISHIWI and her escort, USS GRAY, have been directed to follow the Carrier Group at best speed. The ammunition ship MOUNT HOOD was transitting the Straits enroute to join with the CVA on 6 November.

In the Pacific Fleet, CAMDEN, enroute to CONUS from WESTPAC was turned around to return to Subic to support the Indian Ocean operations. GUARDFISH is enroute to Subic and will then proceed to the Indian Ocean. CORAL SEA arrives in Pearl Harbor on Saturday.

CINCPACFLT 282158Z OCT 73. In the interest of energy conservation, CINCPACFLT has directed THIRDFLT and the PACFLT Type Commanders to:

..Reduce all CONUS and MIDPAC flight operations to the minimum required for priority training and operational requirements;

..Curtail cross country training flights except those of absolute operational necessity;

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

- 31 OCT ..Utilize standdown days to gain Maximum training and maintenance;
- ..Limit Ready Carrier and Air Wing operations to the minimum essential to maintain pilot proficiency;
- ..Combine logistics flights for maximum load factor to reduce flight hours;
- ..Reduce ship operations consistent with current operational requirements, and
- ..Utilize shore power to the maximum extent feasible.

COMSEVENTHFLT has been directed to:

- ..Submit recommendations for maximum cancellation or postponement of exercises;
- ..Modify the port visit program to ensure minimum transit time;
- ..Reduce flight operations to minimum essential to maintain pilot proficiency; and
- ..Reduce ship operations consistent with fulfillment of operational tasking and port loading constraints.

- 1 NOV CINCEUR 020339Z NOV 73/COMSIXTHFLT 011904Z NOV 73  
Disposition Center of TF 60 was moved Westerly to 34-43N, 20-55E to obtain additional sea room permitting the use of speed to break contact with trailing/targeting submarines. TG 60.1, 60.2 and 60.3 were directed to maneuver independently and randomly within 50 NM of the Center. There has been no other significant changes in the disposition of SIXTHFLT units.
- CINCPACFLT 011221Z NOV 73/020337Z NOV 73/020422Z NOV 73/  
020408Z NOV 73/JCS 011457Z NOV/CINCPAC 012000Z NOV73/  
CTF 77 012230Z NOV 73/COMSEVENTHFLT 011708Z NOV 73/  
CINCPACFLT 011622Z NOV 73. In the Indian Ocean TG 77.6 is South of Sri Lanka and has been directed to steam to holding area in the Arabian Sea, arriving AM 6 November.

Indian Ocean Planning: It was anticipated the Task Group's Indian Ocean deployment will not exceed 30 days.

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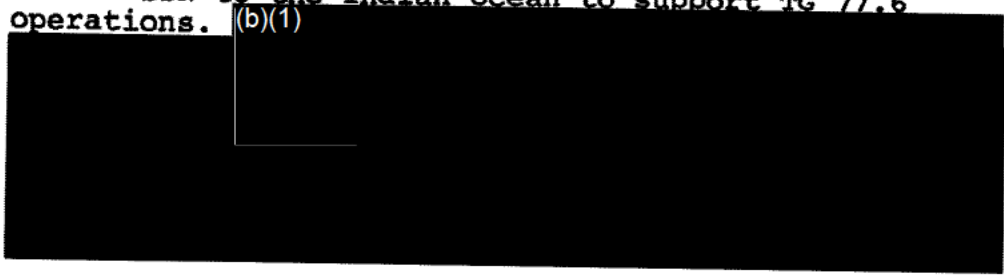
6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

1 NOV 73 INDIAN OCEAN PLANNING (Cont.)

No Vietnam YANKEE Station commitment would be levied during this time frame. Subic Bay would be the logistic staging area in support of the TG.

KAWISHIWI was following the TG with fuel for seven days of operations and was scheduled to arrive in the holding area on 8 November. TALUGA, KANSAS CITY, MISPELLION, and WICHITA was scheduled to provide follow-on fuel consolidations and support. MOUNT HOOD was enroute to the holding area to provide on station contingency ammunition support while CAMDEN was being returned to the SEVENTHFLT to provide a backup ammunition replenishment capability. General Stores and provisions replenishment would be provided every 15 days by USS VEGA and WHITE PLAINS. If required, ORISKANY would relieve HANCOCK on station about 25 November.

Yesterday, the JCS authorized the deployment of one PACFLT SSN to the Indian Ocean to support TG 77.6 operations. (b)(1)



2-4 NOV 73

USCINCEUR 050340Z NOV 73  
CINCUSNAVEUR 042359Z NOV 73  
COMSIXTHFLT 042128Z NOV 73  
NMCC OPSUM 5 NOV 73

In order to effect a balance between at sea readiness and upkeep/maintenance requirements TG 60.1 arrived in Athens over the weekend for an upkeep period until 11 November.

Task Force 61 operated Southwest of Crete.

COMSIXTHFLT shifted his flag to MT. WHITNEY as USS LITTLE ROCK departed the Eastern Med Holding Area for an upkeep period in Gaeta 6 to 12 November.

Task Groups 60.2 and 60.3 steamed West Southwest of Crete.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

2-4 NOV (Cont.)

Task Unit 61.7.1 was inport Souda Bay awaiting clearance into Gythion for limited exercise ashore.

YARNELL and DALE were assigned the Western and Eastern Med surveillance and flight following stations respectively.

Resupply flights from the U.S. to Isreal continued on a regular basis. A total of 428 aircraft (319 C-141's and 109 C-5's) had landed in Isreal.

Souda Bay, Singonella, and Rota based P-3 aircraft continued to maintain surveillance of Soviet Bloc Shipping as well as providing ASW/SSSC support to task forces 60 and 61 over the weekend.

COMSIXTHFLT cancelled U.S. participation in PHIBLEX 5-4 scheduled for 7 to 12 November and CINCUSNAVEUR requested that CINCLANTFLT deploy an additional 4 VP aircraft to NAVEUR for OPCON of COMSIXTHFLT as soon as possible.

COMSEVENTHFLT 020848Z NOV 73; CTG 77.6 031840Z NOV 73; CINCPACFLT 032244Z NOV 73

INDIAN OCEAN OPERATIONS

USS HANCOCK and the Destroyer BAGLEY continued their 20 knot SOA to the holding point at the entrance to the Persian Gulf and are scheduled to arrive 6 NOV. USS KAWISHIWI and escorts were in trial arriving at the holding point on Wednesday. MOUNT HOOD, USNS TALUGA, and USS KANSAS CITY were enroute to provide logistic support. The SSN GUARDFISH was scheduled to rendezvous with TG 77.6 on 18 NOV.

5 NOV USCINCEUR 051235Z, 052030Z NOV 73; COMSIXTHFLT 051528Z NOV 73; JCS 051802Z NOV 73; NDDC.

There was no significant change in the 6th fleet disposition of SIXTHFLT units. TG 67.8 arrived in Naples for an inport period through 18 NOV.

Task Groups would be inport Souda Bay, Athens, or other Greek ports and the other two CVA task groups would be in the general vicinity of their present holding area. Fifty percent of the Amphibious Force could be in Greek ports with the remainder on station.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

5 NOV Cont.

An exception to those guidelines would be the period from 9 to 14 NOV when all carrier task groups would be desired to be at sea thereafter they could resume the above posture.

SIXTH FLEET Units Immediately affected by the new JCS posture guidelines were the INDEPENDENCE and her escorts and the USS LITTLE ROCK all of which were directed to terminate their upkeep periods early in order to proceed to sea on 9 NOV arriving Southwest of Crete NLT 091800Z. LITTLE ROCK was to adjust her departure from Gaeta to arrive southwest of Crete not later than TG 60.1 units.

In the Middle East, the C.F. ADAMS departed DJIBOUTI to escort the M/V Carrier DOVE to JIDDA scheduled to arrive 8 NOV. McCANDLESS scheduled to depart KARACHI 9 NOV en route BAHRAIN. The flagship LASALLE was in port BAHRAIN.

HANCOCK and BAGLEY continued proceeding to the holding point and the remainder of the TG 77.6 units continued their transit to the holding area.

GUARDFISH departed Subic en route to the holding area.

The MSC Tanker SS FORT FETTERMAN inport Singapore scheduled to provide dedicated services to TG 77.6 for an initial period of about 30 days. The tanker was tentatively scheduled to commence load-out at the ANZUK Naval Basin today, and would be employed for UNREP consolidations with the TG 77.6 oiler.

6 NOV USCINCEUR 070510Z NOV 73; COMSIXTHFLT 062030Z NOV 73;  
uscinceur 062040Z NOV 73

TG 60.2, 60.3 and TU 61.7.2 continued operating southwest of crete. TG 60.1 remained inport Athens for upkeep and maintenance until 090600Z when she is scheduled to depart to join TF 60 Southwest of Crete.

TU 61.7.1 was in the training anchorage at Souda Bay. When cleared she is scheduled to proceed to Gythion to exercise Marines ashore while retaining a 4 hour ready-for-sea status.

TG 67.8 remained inport naples through 18 November.

LITTLE ROCK continued upkeep in Gaeta and is scheduled to return to the southwest of Crete Oparea by 091600Z.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

6 NOV Cont.

YARNELL and DALE remained on surveillance and flight following station in the western and eastern Med respectively. 4 C-5 and 12 C-141 flights were monitored yesterday.

MT. BAKER and PAWCATUCK departed Augusta Bay enroute the oparea southwest of Crete.

SYLVANIA and SEATTLE were in company with TG 60.3.

SS AMERICAN RANGERS departure (b)(1) was again delayed until 8 November with a revised ETA Haifa of 16 November. She was carrying trucks and 105MM ammunition and scheduled to arrive in Haifa the morning of 15 November.

CINCUSNAVEUR assessment of threat in the Med to Merchant shipping indicated close escort of AMERICAN RANGER was not continuously required and would probably serve to bring undue attention to the merchant ship. Unless otherwise directed by higher authority COMSIXTHFLT would provide air surveillance along AMERICAN RANGERS track from a point east of Sicily to 100NM from Haifa, while YARNELL would provide support in the western Med if required.

JCS 052054Z NOV 73; CINCEUR 061930Z NOV 73

JCS requested USCINCEUR comment on a proposal to anchor one of the two on-station carrier task groups and all or part of the on-station amphibious group in international waters between longitudes 20 and 30 degrees east as a fuel conservation measure. A level of readiness equivalent to that in effect while underway would be maintained.

USCINCEUR replied that the only suitable anchorages in international waters between 20 and 30 degrees east longitude are Kithera and east of Crete, and that fall and winter wind and sea conditions in these anchorages are generally far from ideal.

In the Indian Ocean the HANCOCK and BAGLEY arrived in the Mideast Carrier Contingency Area (MECCA) (22N, 62E).

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

6 NOV Cont.

The remainder of TG 77.6 units in addition to the logistic support ships, continued their transit to the holding area. (KAWISHIWI, GRAY, PREBLE, McCORMICK - 18N, 66E) (MOUNT HOOD - 9N, 71E) (KANSAS CITY - 5N, 81 E) (USNS TALUGA - 5-3N, 84E).

TG 77.6 consisted of: USS HANCOCK, USS BAGLEY, USS PREBLE, USS McCORMICK, USS GRAY, USS KAWISHIWI

JCS 062335Z NOV 73; CINCUSNAVEUR 070116Z NOV 73

The LA SALLE was inport Bahrain while the Mc CANDLESS was scheduled to depart Karachi tomorrow to rendezvous with HANCOCK.

JCS directed yesterday that Middle East Force Ships should escort U.S. Flag Merchantmen only if clear and present danger to the merchantman is evident and preferably (if time permits) with the prior notification to and concurrence of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Additionally MIDEASTFOR ships should not enter the Red Sea without JCS concurrence. The ADAMS has been directed to exit the Red Sea to proceed to the Gulf of Aden to conduct patrol operations.

This policy guidance will remain in force until 18 November to preclude a confrontation between U.S. Forces and those of any belligerent Arab state during Secretary Kissinger's visits to foreign countries 5 to 16 November.

JCS 061540Z NOV 73

In a message to CINCLANT and CINCPAC JCS outlined the mission and command arrangements for TG 77.6.

The mission was to display a U.S. Naval presence in the Arabian Sea and in adjacent waters when orders to do so by the JCS.

For purposes of carrying out this mission CINCPAC would retain OPCON of TG 77.6. The JCS do not precieve the need to chop operating authority automatically when the TG crosses boundaries outlined in the Unified Command Plan.

CINCPAC will advise CINCLANT and/or UNCINCEUR as appropriate of operations planned or conducted west

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

6 NOV Cont.

of 62 degrees east longitude to preclude mutual interference and to permit close coordination of all U.S. forces operating in the area.

JCS 062321Z NOV 73; COMSEVENTHFLT 070527Z NOV 73

The use of Diego Garcia to support not more than three P-3 aircraft was authorized by the JCS. Protracted operations are not visualized. For immediate purposes no more than seven days operations were to be assumed; however, the situation is fluid and a longer commitment could ensue.

P-3 maintenance vans would not be repositioned to Diego Garcia in view of the uncertain length of the operation.

(b)(1)

The mission of the P-3 aircraft would be to provide surveillance, ASW and reconnaissance support to TG 77.6 operating in the Indian Ocean in order to provide detection and locating information on Soviet combatants and other hostile naval units operating in the area.

7 NOV 73 COMSIXTHFLT 072048Z NOV 73; USCINCEUR 080440Z NOV73

In the SIXTH FLEET all units at sea continue in readiness condition three and operated as before with the following exceptions:

TG 60.1 (INDEPENDENCE) scheduled to depart Athans 9 NOV to join ROOSEVELT and KENNEDY southwest of Crete.

TG 61.7.1 GUADALCANAL) scheduled to Sortie from Souda Bay 9 NOV enroute Gythion.

YARNELL on station "Arlene Prime" reported 3 F-5 aircraft, evaluated as Spanish, made two low passes over the ship before departing to the north with a fourth aircraft. These aircraft were squawking mode II and IIF IFF, and were considered no threat to a MAC flight in the area at the time.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

7 NOV Cont.

USCINCEUR 071730Z NOV 73; COMSUBLANT 072132Z NOV 73

USCINCEUR estimated the Soviet submarine strength in the Mediterranean to be 23 units. (6 cruise missile and 17 attack submarines)

In order to counter this potential threat and provide SIXTHFLT the best possible ASW coverage CINCEUR requested permission from JCS to extend USS TREPANG past her scheduled outchop date of 10 November. TREPANGS relief the SHARD is currently in the Med.

The current U.S. submarine order of battle in the Mediterranean is as indicated: BLUEFISH (SSN-675); LAPON (SSN-661); SILVERSIDES (SSN-679); TREPANG (SSN-674); SEA DEVIL (SSN-664); SEA HORSE (SSN-669); SHARK (SSN-591); RAY (SSN-653); SANDLANCE (SSN-660).

In the Indian Ocean the flagship LA SALLE was inport Bahrain. The McCANDLESS proceeding to rendezvous with HANCOCK and will depart in time to arrive in Bahrain on 10 NOV. The CHARLES F. ADAMS patrolling in the Gulf of Aden reported that the 2200 ton Egyptian destroyer RASHID closed to .9 miles yesterday. The RASHIDS after 40MM gun mount was manned but did not train. ADAMS is scheduled to visit Masawa 10 to 12 November.

Task Group 77.6 operated in the vicinity of the holding area (22N/62E) while the following support units continued their transits to join TG 77.6: MOUNT HOOD (10:40N/70:40E); KANSAS CITY (09N/73E); USNS TALUGA (08N/75E); VEGA (05N/89E); MISPELLION (03N/103E)

The following units were scheduled to provide follow-on logistics support to task group 77.6:

WICHITA (AOR-1) ETA subic 13 NOV as relief for KANSAS CITY: SS FORT FETTERMAN, loading-out Singapore CAMDEN (AOE-2) inport subic; WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4) ETD subic 10 NOV for Indian Ocean; PASSUMPIC (TAO-107) depart CONUS 15 NOV for Indian Ocean augment; ASHTABULA (AO-51) ETA subic 12 NOV.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

8 NOV

In the SIXTHFLT all units at sea basically continued operations as described yesterday.

Task group 77.6 conducted air operations this morning within 250 nautical miles of the holding point at the entrance to the Arabian Sea, excluding areas within 25 nautical miles of any land mass.

During flying hours, HANCOCK will normally maintain an airborne alert of two VA and two SHRIKE capable VA aircraft. During non flying hours, a 30 minute alert of two VF, two VA, 1 KA and one VAW aircraft will be maintained.

Surface surveillance stations have been established at the indicated positions:

CAMEL.....within 30 NM (24N-61E)  
RAJAH.....within 50 NM (23N-64E)  
DERVISH.....within 30 NM (21N-64E)  
DUNE.....within 30 NM (21N-61E)

JCS 082149Z NOV 73

JCS provided CINCPAC with CVA readiness posture guidance to be in effect for the duration of TG 77.6 Indian Ocean Operations.

-One CVA is to be on 96 hour readiness to respond to emergency requirements in SEASIA.

-From 14 through 17 November this CVA is to operate in the southern Gulf of Tonkin and along with herescorts will make one incursion to 19 degrees 30 minutes north during this timeframe.

-After 17 November a 96 hour readiness posture may be resumed.

-The remaining CVA may operate or remain in upkeep as CINCPAC directs.

USS ORISKANY is scheduled to arrive in the GOT on 14 November; while USS MIDWAY is inport Yokosuka in an RAV status.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

9 NOV C6F 081558Z NOV 73; CINCEUR 082251Z NOV 73;  
CINCUSNAVEUR 090013Z NOV 73; JCS 090003Z NOV 73;  
C6F 081536Z NOV 73; CINCEUR 09033Z NOV 73.

In the SIXTHFLT the major force composition, locations, and intentions remain the same with the following exceptions:

- USS LITTLE ROCK arrived S.W. of Crete and COMSIXTHFLT shifted his flag from MOUNT WHITNEY to LITTLE ROCK.
- Permission to retain TREPANG in the Med past her outchop date of 10 NOV has been granted by JCS.
- USCINCEUR provided JCS with a SIXTHFLT maintenance schedule which provided each carrier task group seven days in Athens for essential repairs. A 12 hour readiness posture was approved for ships in a TAV/UPK status. UPK/TAV schedule: 15-21 NOV - F.D. ROOSEVELT & ESCORTS - Athens; YARNELL-CARTEGENA; 22-28 NOV - J.F. KENNEDY & ESCORTS - Athens.

COMSIXTHFLT reported yesterday that surveillance of U.S. carrier and amphibious task groups southwest of Crete, resupply and prepositioning for outchop characterizes Soviet underway activity. Large numbers of units continued at anchor or in port. Aside from increased numbers, all evidence indicated the Soviet Med Fleet was in a normal peacetime state of readiness.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

9 NOV Cont.

(b)(1)

CTG 77.6 081158Z NOV 73; CTG 77.6 081145Z NOV 73;  
WICHITA 081543Z NOV 73.

In the Indian Ocean the Arabian Sea holding area has now been designated Point Ash. HANCOCK and the screen units were in the vicinity of Point Ash this morning. KAWISHIWI was enroute Singapore having completed her unrep of TG 77.6 units. The remaining support units were enroute Point Ash.

HANCOCK would normally operate within 250 miles of Point Ash and she is scheduled to conduct CIC, escort and SEW air training, as well as, air intercept & tracking training for her escorts.

USS WICHITA (AOR-1) scheduled as a relief for KANSAS CITY after 25 November filed a C4 Casrept on her number one main engine.

10-12 NOV COMSIXTHFLT 111654Z NOV 73 (S); YARNELL 111140Z NOV 73 (C)

Task Force 60, consisted of three carrier task groups which operated southwest of Crete. The task groups maneuvered independently and randomly within assigned sectors, remaining within 50 miles of the disposition center.

LITTLE ROCK, with COMSIXTHFLT embarked, in company with task unit 61.7.2, operated east of task force 60. Task unit 61.7.1 remained at the Gythion anchorage while limited training operations were in progress ashore.

YARNELL and DALE remained on their surveillance and flight following stations in the western and eastern Med respectively. YARNELL was C-4 due to casrept SPS 43 radars; she is scheduled to be relieved on station 13 NOV by the DDG SELLERS (DDG-11).

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (CONT.)

10-12 NOV Cont.

COMSIXTHFLT 111645Z NOV 73

Four VP-56 P-3C's inchopped to CTF 67 on 9 NOV increasing the SIXTHFLT fixed wing air ASW assets to 17 VP aircraft and 10 VS.

Future VP support ops will be conducted as follows:

Four Rota based P-3's will continue western and central Med ASW operations at a level of approximately two flights per day.

Sigonella based VP-45 will provide task force 60 continuous ASW, SSSC and COMM window coverage, and, depending on the ASW threat situation, will fly 2 ASW flights per day in the central Med.

Souda based VP-56 will provide two eastern Med ASW/ Mer ship surveillance flights per day.

This plan will increase the ASW/Surveillance effort in support of the SIXTHFLT to the east of TF 60, increase VP time in the task force OPAREA, and provide continued ASW distant support to the west of the task force.

CTG 77.6 111101Z NOV 73; VARIOUS

HANCOCK , her four escorts, AE MT HOOD, the AOR KANSAS CITY operated in the vicinity of Point Ash. USNS TALUGA joined and consolidated with KANSAS CITY. The AF VEGA and the AO MISPILLION were enroute Point Ash.

KAWISHIWI was enroute to a position north of Sumatra to consolidate with RRA TIDEREACH scheduled to take place on 14 NOV 73.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

10-12 NOV Cont.

(b)(1)



13 NOV

In the SIXTHFLT, Task Force 60 consisted of three carrier task groups which operated in a disposition 50 miles from a point 35°N 22°-23'E. Task group 60.1 consisted of INDEPENDENCE, BELKNAP, MANLEY, PAGE, SAMPSON, COONTZ, and SIMS. TG 60.2 consisted of F.D. ROOSEVELT, DEWEY, VREELAND, RICKETTS, and SANSFIELD. Task Group 60.3 consisted of J.F. KENNEDY, BYRD, NEW, MONTGOMERY, and CONYNGHAM. Task Unit 67.7.1 which consisted of GUADALCANAL, AUSTIN, NASHVILLE, FORT SNELLING, and HARLAN COUNTY were in Gythion training anchorage. Task Unit 61.7.2 which consisted of IWO JIMA, MT. WHITNEY, PENSACOLA, MANITOWOC, and SUMTER with escorts LITTLE ROCK, WOOD, BARRY, GLENNON, TRIPPE, HEWES, and McDONNELL operated in the vicinity of 35°N, 23°30'E. Task Group 67.8 which consisted of GRAHAM COUNTY, ANTELOPE, DOUGLAS, GRAND RAPIDS and READY were in port Naples for upkeep and maintenance.

The guided missile cruiser COLUMBUS and DDG SELLERS inchooped. COLUMBUS was enroute Augusta, Sicily, and SELLERS was scheduled to relieve YARNELL on Picket Station Arlene Prime.

(b)(1)



CTG 77.6 121108Z NOV 73; CINCUSVAVEUR.130057Z NOV 73

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

13 NOV Cont.

In the Indian Ocean the Mideast force units LA SALLE and MCCANDLESS were inport Bahrain; MCCANDLESS is scheduled to depart 14 NOV 73 for surveillance operations in the Gulf of Aden. ADAMS departed MASSAWA 12 NOV enroute Bahrain.

The present task group 77.6 disposition had HANCOCK and one excort (BAGLEY) at Point Ash and the remaining escorts dispersed to the indicated surveillance stations:

PREBLE - A1 - 24N/61E; GRAY - A2 - 23N/64E;  
MCCORMICK - A4 - 21N/61E

(KANSAS CITY (AOR 3) AND TALUGA (T-AO 52) AND MT HOOD (AE 29) Are with the task group.)

14 NOV COMSIXTHFLT 131723Z NOV 73; ADMINO CINCUSNAVEUR 142233Z NOV 73

In the Sixth Fleet COMSIXTHFLT implemented emergency action plan Charlie. Omitted Charlie Foxtrot Charlie Hotel, Charlie India, Charlie November, Charlie Oscar. Add Foxtrot Golf, Delta Juliett. Continue ship's movements as presently taked. Implement further ships actions as directed by COMSIXTHFLT. Ships in upkeep may disable machinery so long as half the plant is kept on four hour notice. This plan does not apply to units in TAV.

All units at sea continue in advance readiness condition III.

1. SELLERS on SAR/SURV station Arlene
2. DALE on SAR/SURV station Helen
3. Both SAR/SURV stations will stand down 042400Z
4. OTC is CTF 60 onboard INDEPENDENCE. Task force disposition center was 35-00N, 22-23E and was stationary. Task groups maneuvered independently and randomly within 75 NM of the disposition center.
5. Task group 60.1 (INDEPENDENCE, MANLEY, PAGE and SAMPSON) continued operations as before. SIMS chopped to task force 61 today. BELKNAP/COONTZ detached task group 60.1 late PM 13 NOV. BELKNAP enroute Augusta for turnover with COLUMBUS 15 NOV and COONTZ proceeding to RDVU with SELLERS for

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

14 NOV Cont.

turnover 16 NOV. INDEPENDENCE continued air ops in selective EMCON conditions.

6. Task group 60.2 (FOR, DEWEY, RICKETTS, VREELAND, SANSFIELD, HEWES, TRIPPE AND MCDONNELL) operating as before. At 142400Z, SELLERS will depart from WMed Piraz Station and proceed to join task group 60.1. HEWES, TRIPPE and MCDONNELL joined PM 14 NOV. KASHIN 514 continues mission as task groupe Tattle-tale.

7. Task group 60.3 (JFK, BYRD, NEW MONTGOMERY AND CONYNGHAM) operating as before. NEW directed to join task unit 61.7.1 PM 14 NOV. Task group conducted VERTREP with SYLVANIA commencing at 140900Z. Task group continues to be shadowed by the following Soviet units: SAM KOTLIN 377; KASHIN 197; NANUCHKA 978; and SVERDLOV 845.

8. Task Force 61/62: Task unit 61.7.2 (IWO JIMA, MT WHITNEY, PENSACOLA, MINIWOC and SUMTER) in Gythion training anchorage for limited amphibious training. Task unit 61.7.1 (GUADACANAL, AUSTIN, NASHVILLE, FORT SNELLING and HARLAN COUNTY with escorts LITTLE ROCK, GLENNON, WOOD, BARRY and SIMS) operating as before within 30 NM of Posit 35-00N, 23-30E. Task unit and escorts VERTREPPEP from San Diego/SYLVANIA AM today. KASHIN 173 continues as task group Tattletale.

9. Task force 63 (CALOOSAHATCHEE, CASCADE, EDENTON, MT. BAKER, NOXUBEE, PAWCATUCK, SAN DIEGO, SEATTLE, SHENANDOAH, SYLVANIA and TRUCKEE). CALOOSAHATCHEE in-port Augusta Bay for fuel lift. Cascade in-port Naples. EDENTON in Souda Bay. MT BAKER in Augusta Bay. NOXUBEE sortied Zakynthos AM today enroute Gythion, ETA PM 14 NOV. PAWCATUCK vicinity task force 60.7.1 today. SHENANDOAH in-port Athens. TRUCKEE refueled task force 60.3 escorts 14 NOV. SEATTLE departed Athens PM today to service task force 60 units.

10. Task force 67: (GRAHAM COUNTY, ANTELOPE, DOUGLAS, GRAND RAPIDS and READY) in-port Naples for upkeep and maintenance. Souda, Sigonella and Rota-based P-3's operating in support of SIXTHFLT.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

14 NOV Cont.

Rota-based P-3 aircraft reported a surface Juliett Submarine posit 36-02N, 04-46W at time 140230Z. Course 110, speed 10. Task group 68.2: operating as before until 142400Z. At that time, WMed surveillance and warning flights will standown and EMed flights will be reduced to 1 USN and 1 USAF shortie each day. YARNELL scheduled in port Palma 14-20 NOV. Scheduled upkeep/maintenance rotational plan commences 15 NOV. FDR, DEWEY, RICKETTS, TRIPPE, VREELAND, MCCONNELL, HEWES and SANSFIELD in-port Athens 15-21 NOV. JFK and escorts scheduled in-port Athens 22-28 NOV. LITTLE ROCK scheduled in homeport Gaeta 17-26 NOV.

(b)(1)

In other Indian Ocean logistic activity, TALUGA departed Point Ash to deliver JP-5 to Diego Garcia.

CTF 72 120815Z NOV 73

CTF 72 repositioned Cubi Point based forces to achieve the indicated VP/VQ disposition:

U-TAPAO 3 P-3/4 CREWS: DIEGO GARCIA 2 P-3/3 CREWS:

(b)(1)

Additional liaison and ground support personnel and equipment are positioned at each site. Aircraft and crews will be rotated for maintenance and upkeep as follows:

1 VP - UTAPAO TO DIEGO GARCIA (TACTICAL):

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

14 NOV Cont.

(b)(1)



15 NOV CINCUSNAVEUR 142233Z; COMSIXTHFLT 141911Z; VARIOUS

In the SIXTHFLT all units continued in advance readiness condition III. Modified to permit ships in upkeep to disable machinery provided half the plant is kept on four hour notice.

ROOSEVELT and seven destroyers enter Athens for a six day upkeep period. Yesterday ROOSEVELT anchored briefly in Souda Bay and today INDEPENDENCE and KENNEDY will do the same. The purpose of this operation is to transfer damaged aircraft to the KENNEDY for ultimate return to CONUS.

The amphibious task units have rotated so that the IWO JIMA group is now conducting limited amphibious training at the Gythion anchorage.

With their picket stations secured, SELLERS AND DALE joined task groups 60.1 and 60.3 respectively.

USNS HARKNESS (T-AGS 32) entered Novorosiysk today for a 3 day port visit.

CHNAVMAT 150001Z NOV 73

A summary of our Mediterranean POL status in days of supply as of 14 NOV 73. This information was provided by the Chief of Naval Material and is based on confirmed projected inventories and CINCUSNAVEUR daily consumption planning figures.

	ND	NSFO	JP-5
Augusta	7		
Cagliari	--	6	5
Geata	--	--	--
Souda Bay	--	119	7

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

15 NOV Cont.

	<u>ND</u>	<u>NSFO</u>	<u>JP-5</u>
Iskenderun	8	4	1
Esso Naples	--	--	8
Rota	8	10	10
Cartagena	2	10	2
TOTAL	<u>25</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>51</u>

During the airlift portion of Project Nickel Grass, which terminated today, the air force flew the following resupply flights to Israel:

421	C-141's
<u>145</u>	C-5's
566	TOTAL

In the Atlantic, four amphibious ships departed Norfolk; after a brief stop at Morehead City on 16 NOV to embark Marines, the task unit will transit to the Mediterranean for a regularly scheduled deployment. The force consisted of:

COMPHIBRON 10  
RALEIGH (LPD 1)  
EL PASO (LKA 117)  
HERMITAGE (LSD 34)  
LA MOURE COUNTY (LST 1194)

The destroyer escorts BRUMBY (DE1044) and KOELSCH (DE 1049) sailed from Charleston en route a mid-east force deployment.

CTG 77.6 141305Z NOV 73

In the Indian Ocean there had been no significant change in task group 77.6 operations in the Arabian Sea. The AOR KANSAS CITY, the AE MT HOOD and the AF VEGA were in company with the HANCOCK group. The AO MISPILLION (AO-105) and AE KISKA (AE-35) continued enroute the task group. KISKA was accompanied by two escorts, the BADGER (DE 1071) and BREWTON (DE-1086). USNS TALUGA (T-AO 52) was en route Diego Garcia. The mideast force flagship, LA SALLE, was inport BAHRAIN. McCANDLESS was en route surveillance operations in the Gulf of ADEN and ADAMS was en route Bahrain conducting surveillance operations en route.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

15 NOV Cont.

CINCEUR 170235Z

The arrival of the mer ship LEMON CORE in Isreal with 4 A-4s on board completed the delivery of 54 A-4 aircraft to the government of Isreal.

16 NOV In the SIXTHFLT and Indian Ocean there were no significant changes in the disposition of either the SIXTHFLT or Task Group 77.6.

USS JOHNSTON 151624Z NOV 73

In the Atlantic Fleet the destroyer JOHNSTON (DD-821) departed the Philadelphia Navy Yard for a 24 hour demonstration test of fuel derived from coal. The liquid fuel is a by-product of the Char Oil Energy Development (COED) process which was developed, under the auspices of thy office of coal research, to produce char for power plant fuel. The Chief of Naval Material notes that fuel produced by processes being developed with the primary intent of producing liquid fuel from coal will provide a product more satisfactory for ship population.

CTF 77 101132Z, 150816Z NOV 73

In the SEVENTHFLT the ORISKANY was en route Yankee Station North (circle of 30 NM radius centered 17-30N 108-05E); earlier she operated for twelve hours in the vicinity of Yankee Station way-north at 19-30N (Circle of 25 NM radius centered 19-30N, 107-30E). While ORISKANY was on Yankee Station Way-north, the DLG England was on the associated PIRAZ Station at 19-56 North. (within 5 NM of 19-56N, 107-14E). ORISKANY is scheduled to depart Yankee Station (171800H) and return to the Subic Opareas.

17 NOV JCS 180304Z NOV; CTG 77.6 181038Z, 181755Z

At 1800Z, the SIXTHFLT reverted to DEFCON FIVE. Simultaneously, the Joint Chiefs of Staff authorized the return of SIXTHFLT augmentation forces to CONUS, and COMSIXTHFLT authorized TG 60.3 and other units indicated, to commence a westward transit to ROTA for outchop on 22 November. The KENNEDY is scheduled to off-load certain ordance items that were taken aboard when she inchopped on 25 OCT. The outchopping

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

17 NOV Cont.

units will be the J.F. KENNEDY, DALE, CONYNGHAM, BYRD, MONTGOMERY, GLENNON, NEW, SANSFIELD, SEATTLE, TREPANG.

Although authority was not granted to release the Amphibious ships that were in the MED for an exercise and retained when Middle East hostilities broke out, plans were being made for detaching the BOULDER, SUMTER, PENSACOLA, MANITOWOC, MT WHITNEY, for outchop.

In the Indian Ocean, the JCS ordered task group 77.6 to depart from Point Ash and sail for the Gulf of Aden. The task group, less GRAY, is scheduled to arrive at Point Gam (12N, 46E) on Wednesday (21 NOV) and operate within a 100 mile radius. GRAY will join on Saturday (24 NOV). Two destroyers are scheduled to enter the Red Sea for three days of operations, transiting no further north than Jidda. These two ships are expected to make a port call at Massawa after the 3 days of operations.

HANCOCK is not scheduled to enter the Red Sea. All units will comply with established stand-off distances from foreign territories of 15 NM for ships and 25 NM for aircraft except when transiting straits. Plans were being made that would permit HANCOCK to visit Djibouti or an alternative African port.

18-19 NOV USCINCEUR 112116Z NOV, JCS 170025Z; 171747Z NOV;  
CINCUSNAVEUR 172359Z; 182010Z; 181351Z NOV;  
COMSIXTHFLT 182122Z NOV; CINCLANTFLT 180032Z NOV

In the SIXTHFLT, the SIXTHFLT flagship LITTLE ROCK was in port Gaeta.

Task Group 60.1 composed of INDEPENDENCE, COLUMBUS, SELLERS MANLEY, PAGE, SAMPSON, operated southwest of Crete. This task group is scheduled to visit Athens commencing Thursday.

Task Group 60.2, comprised of F.D. ROOSEVELT, DEWEY, RICKETTS, VREELAND, HEWES, TRIPPE, MC DONNELL, YARNELL (IN-PORT PALMA).

The BELKNAP and COONTZ outchopped 18 NOV for Independent transits to CONUS. COONTZ is scheduled for a brief fuel stop at Pounta Del Gada, Azores. BELKNAP is scheduled to arrive Norfolk on 27 NOV while COONTZ's CONUS ETA is not yet firm.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

18-19 NOV Cont.

The EL PASO, RALEIGH, HERMITAGE, LAMOURE COUNTY, now en route to the MED will join the IWO JIMA and relieve the GUADALCANAL, AUSTIN, NASHVILLE, FORT SNELLING, and HARLAN COUNTY in late November.

USCINCEUR requested that as many of the SSN augment forces as can be spared remain in the MED to gain further knowledge on Soviet submarine operations. CINCLANTFLT has established the following priority of outchop for MED nuclear submarines: RAY, SANDLANCE, LAPON (GATO TO RELIEVE ON 1 DEC), SEA HORSE, and SEA DEVIL.

In the Indian Ocean COMIDEASTFOR 181245Z, 181720Z NOV MC CANDLESS arrived in Djibouti after providing medical aid to a burned crewman aboard a south Korean tanker while en route. C.F. ADAMS was in Bahrain with LA SALLE.

COMSEVENTHFLT 181220Z NOV; CPF 190515Z NOV 73 in response to a request from the JCS, CINCPACFLT has proposed that ORISKANY and escorts be returned to Subic for loadout and sail for the Arabian Sea approximately 21 NOV, at most economical speed, to relieve HANCOCK and her escorts. CINCPACFLT also considers that one SSN will be adequate to support CVA operations in the Arabian Sea if the Soviets do not deploy JULIET or Echo class submarines.

The proposed plan permits ORISKANY to maintain a 96 hour response time to Yankee Station until she enters Strait of Malacca. MIDWAY would assume 96 hour response time by 26 NOV. the relief force would consist of ORISKANY, ENGLAND, R.E. PEARY, BUCHANAN, H.F. HOLT.

CTG 77.6 191045Z NOV; CTG 77.6 181038Z NOV

In the Indian Ocean the Joint Chiefs of Staff directed that TG 77.6 return to Point Ash in lieu of proceeding to Point Gam in the Gulf of Aden, and upon arrival resume routine operations. The task groups will probably proceed to Point Gam next Sunday.

(b)(1)

MCCANDLESS  
will unrep from the AO MISPELLION who was en route the Gulf of Aden with TG 77.6.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (CONT.)

20 NOV C6THFLT 192059Z NOV; CINCEUR 191317Z NOV; CINCLANT  
192257Z NOV

The status of SIXTHFLT forces remains relatively unchanged from that shown yestersay, with TG 60.1 operating southwest of Crete, TG 60.2 in port Athens and TG 60.3 plus SEATTLE transiting toward Rota. The KENNEDY and SEATTLE transferred aviation ordance that is to remain in the MED to the AE MOUNT BAKER yesterday.

All task force 61/62 units conducted cross decking of personnel and cargo in the Souda Bay Anchorage. When completed, PENSACOLA, MANITOWOC and SUMPTER are scheduled to proceed to Livorno to backload exercise Deep Furrow personnel and equipment. MT WHITNEY is scheduled to depart Souda Bay for a Port visit to Lisbon, and GUADALCANAL is scheduled to transit to Rota. CINCLANT has recommended that the LST BOULDER, in Rota through-out most of the Middle East Crisis, sail independently for CONUS. SIXTHFLT force composition was:

TG 60.1 INDEPENDENCE, COLUMBUS, SELLERS, MANLEY, PAGE  
SAMPSON.

TG 60.2 F.D. ROOSEVELT, DEWEY, RICKETTS, VREELAND,  
HEWES, TRIPPE, MCDONNELL.

TG 60.3 J.F. KENNEDY, DALE, CONYNGHAM, BYRD, MONTGOMERY,  
GLENNON, NEW SEATTLE.

TU 61.7.2 IWO JIMA, MT WHITNEY, PENSACOLA, MANITAWOC,  
SUMTER.

TU 61.7.1 GUADALCANAL, AUSTIN, NASHVILLE, FORT SNELLING,  
HARLAN COUNTY.

TG 67.8 GRAHAM COUNTY, ANTELOP, DOUGLAS, GRAND RAPIDS,  
READY.

ATLANTIC TRANSITS In the Atlantic the amphibious units RALEIGH, EL PASO, HERMITAGE, and LA MOURE COUNTY were 1250 NM west of Norfolk enroute the Mediterranean as reliefs for GUADALCANAL, AUSTIN, NASHVILLE, FORT SNELLING, and HARLAN COUNTY. The GUADALCANAL group is currently scheduled for a late NOV Mediterranean outchop.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

20 NOV

Cont.

(b)(1)

JCS 200158Z NOV; COMIDEASTFOR 192250Z NOV

TG 77.7 continued her transit to Point Ash MT HOOD, KANSAS CITY, and Vega are eastbound.

USS GARY is scheduled to rendezvous with TD 75.5.5 today to pick up mail, passengers, and fleet freight from USS FISK. GRAY will then rejoin TG 77.6 at Point Ash on Saturday (b)(1)

USNS TALUGA is currently anchored at Diego Garcia offloading 13,000 barrels of JP-5 to be used in supporting P-3 aircraft operations.

(b)(1)

The CHARLES F. ADAMS was inport Bahrain.

CINCPAC 200246Z NOV

In the SEVENTHFLT the MIDWAY remained in an RAV status. DENVER was inport Sasebo and PULUH was in port Hong Kong. The flagship OKLAHOMA CITY is scheduled to commence a port visit to Manila on 22 NOV 73.

USS OKINAWA and ORISKANY were inport Subic Bay. The CINCPACFLT proposed to send ORISKANY to the Arabian Sea tomorrow to relieve HAWLOCK was concurred in by CINCPAC

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

20 NOV Cont.

and was awaiting final approval by the JCS, however, CINCPAC recommends that 2 SSNs be maintained in the Arabian Sea until the Soviet Reaction to extended Arabian Sea operations is determined.

USCINCEUR 201636Z NOV 73

In the SIXTHFLT TG 60.1, INDEPENDENCE, COLUMBUS, MANLEY, SAMPSON, PAGE, BARRY, SIMS, WOOD, AND SELLERS, is scheduled to commence port visit in Athens commencing 22 NOV, TG 60.2, FDR, RICKETTS, DEWEY, TRIPPE, HEWES, MCDONNELL, AND VREELAND, less YARNELL were underway from Athens to the OPAREA and TG 60.3 continued underway enroute outchop scheduled for 22 NOV. USCINCEUR authorized SIXTHFLT to reconstitute task force 61 into two task groups utilizing the indicated units currently in the Mediterranean: IWO JIMA (LPH-2); GUADALCANAL (LPH 7); NASHVILLE (LPD 13); AUSTIN (LPD 4); FT SNELLING (LSD 30); HARLAN COUNTY (LST 1196).

The first task group would be primarily Helibourne configured and would comprise 1 LPH; 1 LPD; and an LST with assault forces & supporting arms embarked. The second task group would comprise an LPH; LPD; and LSD with assault forces, supporting arms, amphibious tractors and tanks embarked. This group would have a strong Heliborne & surface assault capability. Task group rotation would be 4 days at sea southwest of Crete followed by 4 days at a training anchorage and/or port visit.

At the end of this month, Med 3-73 units, RALEIGH (LPD 1); HERMITAGE (LSD 34); EL PASO (LKA 117); LA MOURE COUNTY (LST 1194) will have thw two marine amphibious unit lift capability required by CINCEUR excluding the augment amphibious shipping held over from Exercise Deep Furrow/Flintlock. This reconstitution of task force 61 requires extending GUADALCANAL, NASHVILLE, AURSTIN, FT SNELLING, AND HARLAN COUNTY beyond their scheduled outchop date of 26 NOV.

Accordingly CINCEUR has requested JCS approval to back-load Deep Furrow personnel and equipment aboard MANITOWOC, PENSACOLA, AND SUMTER at Livorno, Italy 22 through 24 NOV. The three backloaded units would then rendezvous with MT WHITNEY at Rota and proceed to CONUS. The LST BOULDER held at Rota during the entire Middle East Crisis

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

20 NOV Cont.

period is scheduled to outchop as soon as possible for an independent transit to CONUS.

In other SIXTHFLT activities of significance, task group 60.2 departs Athens today to replace the INDEPENDENCE group in the OP area south west of Crete. INDEPENDENCE and her escorts will begin a port visit to Athens tomorrow.

In the Indian Ocean TG 77.6, HANCOCK, BAGLEY, MCCORMICK, PREBLE, GRAY, KANSAS CITY, MISPELLION, continued transit to Pt. Ash. Exercise Midlink 73, a joint/combined cento maritime exercise, commences 23 NOV in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. The exercise has as its objectives to: a. Permit Cento Naval and Air forces to conduct combined training and refine naval warfare procedures and techniques. b. Exercise and evaluate combined maneuvers at sea with emphasis on task force defense against air, subsurface, and surface attack. c. Employ Cento landbased air defense and reconnaissance aircraft in support of a task force at sea. d. Exercise and evaluate senior commanders and staffs in combined planning and operations.

Forces involved are:

US NAVY

LA SALLE  
MC CANDLESS  
C. F. ADAMS  
BADGER  
BREWTON  
KISKA

USAF

4 F-111

ALLIED FORCES

IRAN

2 DD  
2 FF 1 F-4 SQN  
2 MSC MISC A/C  
2 PMG  
1 MSI

PAKISTAN

2 DD  
2 SS

UK

1 FF  
1 AO

TURKEY

1 UDT

21-22 NOV Cont.

In the SIXTHFLT TG 60.1 was enroute Athens, TF 60.2

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

21-22 NOV Cont.

was operating WSW of Crete.

The J. F. KENNEDY task group (plus SEATTLE) out-chopped at 1703Z and are scheduled to arrive in their homeports on 1 DEC. KENNEDY departed Norfolk for this deployment on 16 April 1973. USS TREEPANG (SSN-674) outchopped Med.

GUADALCANAL got underway from Rhodes to assist a Greek ship in distress. All four crewmen of the M/S KONITSA (111 FT, 150 Ton, Built 1926) were rescued by helicopters from GUADALCANAL and returned to Rhodes.

CINCUSNAVEUR 211026Z; 211346Z NOV

A 24 hour curfew was imposed in Athens, Salonica and surrounding areas by the Greek government, however, U.S. personnel subsequent to being stopped have been allowed to pass roadblocks to return to the fleet landing. Reports indicated the curfew is scheduled to be lifted today.

USCINCEUR reported no indication of Threat to U.S. facilities or personnel however, Souda Bay airfield is closed. The following aircraft at Souda Bay were affected.

1 C-118	10 S-2's
1 A-6	4 A-7's
1 C-1	4 P-3's

CINCUSNAVEUR 191354Z (TS); JCS 212318Z (S)

In view of SIXTHFLT return to normal defcon, JCS concurred with CINCUSNAVEUR recommendation to release units placed in standby status during Mideast Crisis. These units are:

SAVANNAH (AOR 4)	48HR STANDBY
SANTE BARBARA (AE-28)	48HR STANDBY
DENEBOLA (AF-56)	48HR STANDBY
FOUR EA6A ACFT	72HR STANDBY
THREE A6B ACTF	48HR STANDBY

CINCUSNAVEUR 211026Z; 211346Z NOV 73; USCINCEUR 231821Z NOV 73; USDAO TEL AVIV 230805Z NOV 73

CINCUSNAVEUR recommended that the force level of four SSN's in the Med be increased to six now vice as planned

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

21-22NOV Cont.

in June 1974. The rationale provided is that Soviet submarine forces in the Med will drop slowly but remain the highest concentration of submarines out of area in the world. The augment of U.S. submarines in the Med to a total of nine during the Mideast Crisis provided substantial information on Soviet tactics in protecting carrier task groups. Continued progress can be expected if 6 SSN's are available.

TREPANG has already outchopped and if the recommended outchop of RAY and SANDLANCE is approved the desired force level of 6 SSN's would be reached. USCINCEUR's approval has been deferred pending clarificating of the rationale for the increased readiness posture placed on IDF forces last Friday.

JCS 212205Z NOV 73; NAVCOMSTA HAROLD E. HOLD 220735Z NOV 73

The JCS requested that the Navy, on a priority basis, deploy a satellite ground terminal from the HAROLD E. HOLT communications station in Australia to Diego Garcia to provide unsecure and alternate record communications support to TG 77.6. Dismantly of the equipment commenced 15 NOV and is expected to be ready for shipment not later than 28 NOV.

23 NOV

CINCUSNAVEUR 230100Z NOV; USS GUADALCANAL 221330Z; 221514Z NOV; USCINCEUR 230302 NOV

In the SIXTHFLT task group 60.1 (INDEPENDENCE group) is inport Athens, task group 60.2 (ROOSEVLET group) is operating WSW of Crete, task group 61/62 is inport Rhodes.

MT WHITNEY is scheduled to arrive in Lisbon 24 NOV for a 4 day port visit. SUMTER, PENSACOLD AND MANITOWOC are a scheduled to complete backload of Exercise Deep Furrow material at Livorno and depart for Rota with a 26 NOV ETA. Outchop authority for these units is awaiting JCS approval.

In PACFLT the KITTY HAWK departed conus enroute to Subic as HANCOCK's relief as a SEVENTHFLT CVA. She is scheduled for a two day stop in Pearl Harbor to replenish arriving on 29 NOV. KITTY HAWK will continue her westbound transit departing Pearl on 1 DEC chopping to COMSEVENTHFLT on 7 DEC and arriving in Subic on

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

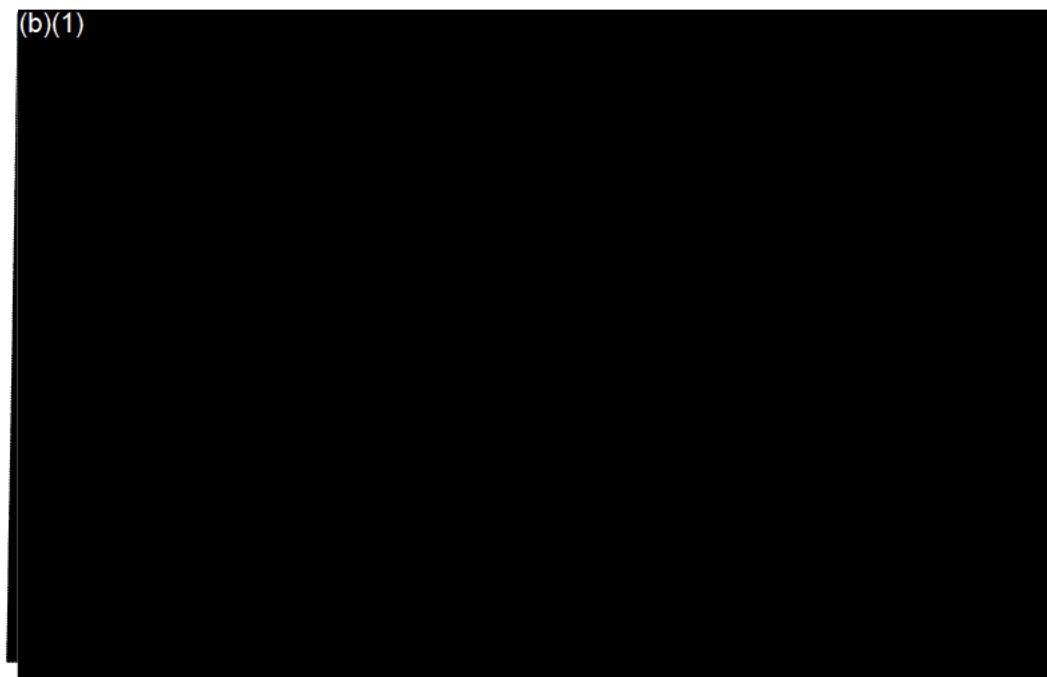
23 NOV Cont.

14 December.

24-25 NOV CINCUSNAVEUR 251327Z NOV 73/250100Z NOV 73; JCS 240327Z NOV 73; COMSIXTHFLT 240834Z NOV 73; USS SIMS 250235Z NOV 73/251245Z NOV 73; NDDC

In the SIXTHFLT operations were similar to those described yesterday.

(b)(1)



In the Indian Ocean TG 60.2 enroute to a 28 NOV arrival at E. Med having been authorized to do so on 25 NOV by USF.

26 NOV

CTF 60.2 250100Z NOV 73/250100Z NOV 73; USCINCPAC 250100Z NOV 73

In the SIXTHFLT TG 60.2 consisting of USS INDEPENDENCE; USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS; USS W. H. WOOD; USS BARRY; USS WREGLAND; USS JIMMY CARTER; USS ALBERT A. ANDERSON; USS ROOSEVELT; USS THOMAS G. BOWEN; USS BRIGHTS; USS WERNELL operated WSW of Crete.

TF 61/62 disposition consisting of: AUSTIN, FT SNELLING and IWO JIMA arrived in Rhodes with GUADALCANAL, NASHVILLE and EARLAN COUNTY departing Rhodes. PENSACOLA,

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

26 NOV Cont.

MANITOWOC and SUMTER are scheduled to arrive in Rota 27 NOV. LITTLE ROCK remained in upkeep in Gaeta.

RALEIGH, EL PASO, HERMITTAGE, and LAMORE COUNTY in-chopped SIXTHFLT.

JCS 242314 NOV 73; CINCPACFLT 250203Z NOV 73; CTU 77.5, 260245Z NOV 73

In the Indian Ocean TG 77.6 continued steaming from Pt. Ash to Pt. Gam.

(b)(1)

Subject to confirmation by the JCS the USS BAGLEY and USS L. MC CORMICK will enter the Red Sea on 29 NOV for a 3 day port visit to Massawa. Upon completion of the port visit the units will depart the Red Sea and rejoin TG 77.6 in the southern Arabian Sea.

TG 77.1 consisting of CHALKER (CVA-34); SUTHERLAND (DDG-10); ARSAND (DLG-22); NORT (DE-1047); PEARY (DE-1073) was underway from Subic to conduct one day operations in the area UNREP from the CAMDEN and depart for Singapore on 27 NOV. The TG is scheduled to rendezvous and relieve TG 77.6 on 8 DEC at 10.7N/69.2E.

ASHTABULA and WHITE PLAINS ARE enroute Pt. Ash.

27 NOV USCINCEUR 270330Z NOV 73; ADMIN CINCUSNAVEUR 270100Z NOV 73

In the SIXTHFLT there was no significant change in the disposition of major SIXTHFLT forces. TG 60.1 was inport Athens while TG 60.2 operated WSW of Crete.

AUSTIN, FT. SNELLING and IWO JIMA were inport Rhodes; GUADALCANAL, NASHVILLE and HARLAN COUNTY were inport Souda. LITTLE ROCK was inport Gaeta. PENSACOLA, MANITOWOC and SUMTER arrived in Rota.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

27 NOV Cont.

(b)(1) MT. WHITNEY was inport Lisbon. RALEIGH, ELPAST, HERMITAGE, AND LA MOURE COUNTY were inport Rota. They are scheduled to depart Rota Wednesday enroute to a 1 DEC arrival at Souda Bay.

The Greek curfew was lifted midnight Washington time 25 NOV and normal air operations have been resumed at Souda Bay.

In the Indian Ocean TG 77.6 consisting of USS HANCOCK, USS BAGLEY, USS PREBLE, USS MC CORMICK, USS MISSPILLION, USS GRAY, continued enroute to a 28 NOV arrival at Pt. Gaa (12N, 40E). While ASHTABULA and WHITE PLAINS continued their transit to Pt. Ash.

MT. HOOD, KANSAS CITY and TALUGA were enroute Subic and VEGA was enroute Singapore.

TU 75.5.5 consisting of USS BADGER, USS BREWTON, and USS KISKA, LA SALLE, C.F. ADAMS AND MC CANDLESS continued their participation in exercise MIDLINK-73.

28 NOV In the SIXTHFLT TG 60.1 was inport Athens and TG 60.2 was operating west south west of Crete.

TU 61.7.1 (GUADALCANAL, NASHVILLE, HAROAN COUNTY) departed Rhodes arrived Souda Bay. TU 61.7.2 (IWO JIMA, AUSTIN, FT SNELLING) in port Rhodes. TU 61.7.3 (PENSACOLA, MANITOWOC, SUMTER) arrived Rota. TU 61.7.4 (MT WHITNEY) inport Lisbon. ETD 27 NOV. TG 61.8 (RALEIGH with COMPHIBRON TEN embarked, EL PASO, HERMITAGE, LA MOURE COUNTY) enroute Souda Bay ETA 010600Z DEC 73.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

28 NOV

Cont.

(b)(1)

In the morning of 28 NOV, the 6th Fleet OP  
are in the Mediterranean Sea. The 6th Fleet OP  
1. The 6th Fleet OP is in the Mediterranean Sea  
and the 6th Fleet OP is in the Mediterranean Sea  
TO the 6th Fleet OP is in the Mediterranean Sea  
Gar... ..

29 NOV

In the morning of 29 NOV, the 6th Fleet OP  
are in the Mediterranean Sea. The 6th Fleet OP  
1. The 6th Fleet OP is in the Mediterranean Sea  
and the 6th Fleet OP is in the Mediterranean Sea  
TO the 6th Fleet OP is in the Mediterranean Sea  
Gar... ..

(b)(1)

USS 101ST ROCA continued her upkeep in Gaza and is  
scheduled to depart for port on 5 DEC.

USS 101ST ROCA, 101ST ROCA, 101ST ROCA, AND LA MOORE COUNTY,  
were located southeast of Sicily and are enroute Souda  
Bay arriving 1 DEC.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

29 NOV Cont.

TG 60.2 consisting of F.D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42); TRIPPE (DE-1075); DEWEY (DLG-14); RICKETTS (DDG-5); YARNELL (DLG-14); SELLARS (DDG-11) was operating west southwest of Crete: while TG 60.1 consisting of INDEPENDENCE (CV-62); SAMPSON (DDG-10); WOOD (DD-715); BARRY (DD-933); VREELAND (DE-1068); MANLEY (DD-940); PAGE (DEG-5); COLUMBUS (CG-15) was inport Athens through 1 DEC.

USS GUADALCANAL, NASHVILLE, AND HARLAN COUNTY are inport Souda Bay; meanwhile AUSTIN, FT. SNELLING and IWO JIMA departed Rhodes.

In the Indian Ocean the USS BAGLEY and USS MC CORMICK transited the Bab El Mandeb Strait at 0300 Washington time this morning enroute to a 30 NOV to 4 DEC port visit at Massawa. During the Bab El Mandeb passage two MIG aircraft reportedly conducted one pas down BAGLEY'S port side with a Cpa of 4 miles. The MIGs continued south and were considered to pose no threat. No further foreign interest was reported apparent.

The remaining TG 77.6 consisting of HANCOCK (CVA-19); GRAY (DE-1054); MCCORMICK (DDG-8); MISPELLION (AO-105); BAGLEY (DE-1069); PREBLE (DLG-15) were in the vicinity of Pt. Gam; USS HANCOCK conducted air operations in the Gulf of Aden during BAGLEY'S and MCCORMICK'S Red Sea entry.

ASHTABULA, WHITE PLAINS and ELINT continued their transits to join task group 77.6 from the indicated positions.

The task group replenished from Camden 27 NOV and is scheduled to top-off from USNS TALUGA on 30 NOV. ORISKANY'S escorts steaming one boiler operations for POL economy. TG 77.5 composed of ORISKANY, ENGLAND BUCHANAN, HOLT AND PEARY is scheduled to rendezvous and relieve TG 77.6 in the Mid-Indian Ocean (10°-42'N/ 69°-12'E) on 8 DEC.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING THE ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (CONT.)

29 NOV Cont.

(b)(1)

30 NOV In the SIXTHFLT TG 60.1 was inport Athens, TG 60.2 operated WSW of Crete, AUSTIN, FT. SNELLING, and IWO JIMA were enroute Souda Bay ETA 30 NOV, GUADALCANAL, NASHVILLE, and HARLAN COUNTY were inport Souda Bay, RALEIGH, (with COMPHIBRON TEN embarked) EL PASO, HERMITAGE and LA MOURE COUNTY were enroute Souda Bay. ETA 1 DEC 73.

TF 63 INDIAN OCEAN TG 77.6 was inport Massawa. ETA 30 NOV 73.  
Estimated 1000 / 1000 000 000

LITTLE ROCK was in upkeep Gaeta. ETD 5 DEC 73.

(b)(1)

W. S. SIMS proceeding Rota ETA 30 NOV 73.

CTF 67 provided random P3 surveillance for SS Seatrain Puerto Rico along Pim. Seatrain Puerto Rico ETA Ashdod 30 NOV.

In the Indian Ocean TF 77.6 continued operations in the vicinity of Pt. Gam and BAGLEY and MC CORMICK were inport Massawa. TG 77.5 unreped and continued transit to relieve TF 77.6

NDZ 77.6 TF 72 SVERDLOV, CTF-72 300047Z NOV 73

VP/VQ daylight VFR air operations continued in support of TF 77.6 from (b)(1) Diego Garcia and U-tapao, Thailand.

Tasking includes daily surveillance in support of TG 77.6 (b)(1) and daily relocation of the SVERDLOV Group as long as they remained in the vicinity of the speakers bank mooring area by VP/VQ aircraft inbound or outbound of Diego Garcia.

Previously reported rotation of VP crews and aircraft continues every third day with:

(b)(1)

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

30 NOV Cont.

(b)(1)

--One VQ flight is tasked every other day in support of TG 77.6. (b)(1)

Disposition of VQ flight groups is as follows:

USCIB  
DIEGO  
(b)(1)

1 VP-10 CREW  
1 VP-12 CREW  
(b)(1)

VQ

USCIB  
(b)(1)

1 VP-10 CREW

1-3 DEC

USCIB 01 DEC 73

In the SIXTIFLE task group 60.1 consisting of INDEPENDENT (CVA-62); SAMPSON (DDG-101); WOOD (DD-715); BAKER (DD-3); VREELAND (DE-115); and LARSEN (DD-940) arrived southwest of Crete this morning while task group 60.2 consisting of F. D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42); TRIPPE (DE-1075); DEWEY (DLG-14); RICKETTS (DDG-5); YARBRO (DLG-17); SELLARS (DDG-11) arrived in Athens for an upkeep period.

Five units of task force 61 sortied from Souda Bay 2 DEC and will arrive in the following Greek and Turkish ports.

HERMION COUNTY  
AOLIN  
NASHVILLE  
FT. SNELLING  
GUADALCANAL

-- IRAKLION  
-- CORFU  
-- ATHENS  
-- ATHENS  
-- IZMIR

RAIFORT, EL PASO, HERMITAGE AND LA MOURE COUNTY remain inport Souda Bay.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

1-3 DEC Cont.

The USS GATO (SSN-615) INCHOPPED 1 DEC. Present submarine forces in the SIXTHFLT was 8 units.

CTG 77.6 021142Z DEC 73

In the Indian Ocean task group 77.6 conducted operations in the vicinity of Point Gam over the weekend. 36,000 barrels of (b)(1) oil was provided CTG 77.6 oilers by the MSC charter tankers Sandy Lake and Exxon Seattly on 30 NOV and 1 DEC. Exxon Seattly departed Point Gam for the 8 DEC mid Indian Ocean rendezvous position of the HANCOCK and ORISKANY groups. WHITE PLAINS unreped dry and freezer stores to TG 77.6 units.

USS BAGLEY and MCCORMICK departed MASSAWA and will rejoin HANCOCK 4 DEC.

CTG 77.6 reports 28 operable days with the mobile logistics support force units present. Air operations and additional sweeps are scheduled.

Task Group 77.5 continued enroute to relieve TG 77.6 in the Arabian Gulf, ORISKANY with her four escorts transited the Malacca Strait.

JCS 010106Z DEC 73; CINCPACFLT 010333Z DEC 73

The JCS has modified the WESTPAC CVA readiness posture effective immediately for the duration of INDIAN OCEAN/ ARABIAN SEA task group operations as follows:

- a. Continue one CVA on a 96 Hour readiness posture to respond to emergency requirements in SEASIA. This CVA is directed to commence southern gulf of Tonkin operations for 4 days on or about 4 DEC 73.
- b. At least one transit to 19°/30' in latituded is to be made during this timeframe. There after, a 96 hour readiness posture may be resumed.
- c. When available, the remaining WESTPAC CVA will be in operations or upkeep as directed by CINCPAC.

On Saturday CINCPACFLT requested COMSEVENTHFLT to have task group 77.4 (USS MIDWAY) on station in the southern Tonkin Gulf not later than 050100Z DEC 73.

USS ORISKANY is enroute a Mid Indian Ocean turnover with USS HANCOCK on 8 DEC. USS KITTY HAWK continues a 16.6

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

1-3 DEC Cont.

knot transit to Souda Bay arriving 13 DEC as HANCOCKS relief.

4 DEC In the SIXTHFLT the task groups remained as described on 3 DEC.

JCS 040246Z DEC 73

USCINCEUR was informed tht the JCS, policy of maintaining one amphibious task group either at anchor or operating in the vicinity of Crete was no longer applicable.

Accordingly USCINCEUR was requested to OUTCHOP the Mediterranean Amphibious ready group 2-73 as soon as practicable.

The units comprising MARG 2-73 and their current location are as indicated:

MARG 2-73

GUADALCANAL (LPH-7)	IZMIR, TURKEY
NASHVILLE (LPD-13)	ATHENS, GREECE
AUSTIN (LPD-4)	CORFU, GREECE
FT. SNELLING (LSD-30)	ATHENS, GREECE
HARLAN CTY (LST-1196)	IRAKLION, CRETE

The Mediterranean amphibious ready group 3-73 is currently in port Souda Bay:

MARG 3-73

IWO JIMA (LPH-2)  
HERMITAGE (LSD-34)  
RALEIGH (LPD-1)  
EL PASO (LKA-117)  
LA MOURE COUNTY (LST-1194)

CTG 77.6 031144Z DEC 73; CTG 77.5 031206Z DEC 73

In the Indian Ocean task group 77.6 continued operating in the vicinity of Point Gam. USS MISPELLION departed Point GAM enroute the TG 77.5/77.6 rendezvous position to provide POL support.

Task Group 77.5 continued their westbound transit and is scheduled to conduct flight operations for practice bombing, AIC training, and surface surveillance today.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

4 DEC Cont.

Exercise MIDLINK was completed on 3 DEC and the four USAF F-111's (b)(1) returning to upper Heyford, United Kingdom.

USS KOELSCH and BRUMBY are LANTFLT assets enroute to relieve the ADAMS and MCCANDLESS presently assigned to Mideastfor.

(b)(1)

BRUMBY and KOELSCH received 50,000 gallons of fuel in Freetown, and their next stop will be MOCAMEDES where they expect to top-off.

An UNREP with a United Kingdom Royal Fleet Auxiliary has been requested off-of Capetown for 16 DEC, and the turn over with ADAMS and MCCANDLESS will be in Diego Suarez.

In the SEVENTHFLT the SEVENTHFLT Flagship OKLAHOMA CITY was enroute Okinawa. USS MIDWAY was conducting type training and is scheduled to depart the Subic Bay Operating Areas late 4 DEC. enroute the southern Gulf of Tonkin. USS OKINAWA was inport Subic Bay. USS KITTY HAWK was 1200 miles west of Hawaii enroute Subic Bay. She will INCHOP to SEVENTHFLT 7 DEC.

5 DEC JCS 042247Z DEC 73

In the SIXTHFLT the JCS directed the reduction of SIXTHFLT SSG from eight to four units yesterday.

TG 77.5 041546Z DEC 73; CTG 72 041808Z DEC 73

In the Indian Ocean USS HANCOCK departed Point Gam enroute the Mid Indian Ocean rendezvous with the ORISKANY group on 8 DEC. A replenishment with USS FLINT was conducted. Task group 77.5 continues enroute training and flight operations as weather permits this morning. Meanwhile 250 miles to the northeast a P-3 aircraft sighted the Soviet ECHO II submerge early yesterday morning. The submarine was on course 240° at 13 knots.

The DE's KOELSCH and BRUMBY departed Freetown, Sierra

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

5 DEC Cont.

Leone and are now scheduled to refuel from a royal fleet auxiliary off of the west coast of Africa on 10 DEC. The decision to enter Mocamedes will now depend on the rendezvous location. If the U.S. units do enter Mocamedes it will be for a Port visit only.

As previously scheduled BRUMBY and KOELSCH will subsequently refuel from a second RFA tanker on 16 DEC 300 miles east of Capetown before proceeding to Diego Suarez for turnover with ADAMS and MCCANDLESS.

6 DEC In the SIXTHFLT, LITTLE ROCK arrived at Tunis, Tunisia, for a port visit that will last until 10 NOV. Task group 60.1 with INDEPENDENCE was operating southwest of Crete and ROOSEVELT and TG 60.2 were in Athens. GUADALCANAL departed Izmir and will arrive in Rota on 10 NOV. IWO JIMA was inport Souda Bay.

Marg 2-73 consisting of COMPHIBRON 6; GUADALCANAL (LPH-7); NASHVILLE (LPD-13); AUSTIN (LPD-4); FT. SNELLING (LSD-30); HARLAN COUNTY (LST-1196) had sortied for Rota and will outchop on the 13th for return to CONUS. If weather for the Atlantic transit permits, a 24 DEC arrival in CONUS is anticipated.

CTF 76 040956Z DEC; USS OKINAWA 050924Z DEC

In the SEVENTHFLT, MIDWAY arrived on Yankee Station Way North for one day of operations. ARG Alfa consisting of, OKINAWA; DULUTH; MT VERNON; BARBOUR COUNTY, less OKINAWA was conducting type training in the Subic OPAREA. OKINAWA was returning to Subic for assistance by SRF Subic personnel in plugging an economizer tube that ruptured because of metal fatigue. TUSCALOOSA was inport Subic for a restricted availability to replace her bow doors. SCHENECTADY and MOBILE were loading a battalion landing team at Numazu and DENVER was enroute OKINAWA. OKLAHOMA CITY was in port Yokosuka.

In the Indian Ocean TG 77.6 consisting of HANCOCK (CVA-19); PREBLE (LDG-15); L. MCCORMICK (DDG-8); GRAY (DE-1054); BAGLEY (DE-1069) was enroute to a 8 DEC rendezvous and turnover with TG 77.5 consisting of ORISKANY (CVA-34); ENGLAND (DLG-22); BUCHANAN (DDG-14); PEARY (DE-1073); H.E. HOLT (DE-1078), prior to continuing the transit to a 17 DEC arrival in Subic Bay. LA SALLE was inport Bahrain and C.F.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

6 DEC Cont.

ADAMS was in Karachi, Pakistan for a 5 day visit. MCCANDLESS was enroute to a 4 DEC arrival in Victoria, Seychelle Islands. MISPELLION rendezvoused with the ORISKANY group for UNREP (b)(1)

7 DEC USCINCEUR 070130Z DEC 73

In the SIXTHFLT COMSIXTHFLT (LITTLE ROCK) in Tunis. ETD 11 DEC 73. TG 60.1 (INDEPENDENCE group less SAMPSON) were in OP area WSW Crete. SIMPSON was in Athens. TG 60.2 (ROOSEVELT group less SIMS) were in Athens.

TF 61/62 TWO JIMA, RELEIGH, EMBASSY, LA MOUZE COUNTY, and BIRMINGHAM were in training anchorage Santa Bay. NASEVILLE, FT. JOSEPH, HARRIS COUNTY, AUSTIN and GUADALCANAL were enroute rota for outchop about 13 DEC 73.

TF 69: RAY and SANDLANCE were enroute outchop 07 and 08 DEC 73 respectively.

USINT CAIRO 061920Z OCT 73; CINCUER 301701Z NOV 73; JCS 061513Z DEC 73

The Joint Chiefs of Staff upon a request from USCINCEUR, have authorized the relaxation of restrictions for SIXTHFLT carrier task group operations in the eastern Mediterranean further east than 26 degrees east longitude. Operating restrictions now apply to those warning areas published by Egypt and Syria at the time of the outbreak of hostilities in October. The restricted areas are those areas north of latitude 33 degrees six minutes and east of longitude 34 degrees - up to latitude 33 north and longitude 29 degrees 20 minutes east. Territorial water and airspace restriction will apply in all other areas.

In the Indian Ocean TG 77.6 and TG 77.5 continued closing each other for an 8 DEC RDV.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

8-10 DEC In the SIXTHFLT, LITTLE ROCK (with COMSIXTHFLT) was in Tunis, scheduled to depart on 11 DEC.

TG 60.1 (INDEPENDENCE) was in the OPAREA WSW of Crete and TG 60.2 (ROOSEVELT) was in port Athens.

In the amphibious force, TF 61/62 (IWO JIMA) arrived Genoa 10 DEC. Marg 2-73 (GUADALCANAL) continued enroute Rota for OUTCHOP on 13 DEC.

In the MED submarine force, SANDLANCE (SSN-660) OUTCHOPPED 8 DEC. GATO (SSN-615) was at La Maddalena. In view of GATO's unsatisfactory orse, necessitating reactor shutdown, CINCLANTFLT recommended to CINCUSNAVEUR that SEA HORSE (SSN-669) be retained in the MED until GATO undergoes a retraining period (estimated at four weeks) and completes a successful orse. SEA HORSE had been directed (by JCS) to OUTCHOP MLT 12 DEC 1973.

USCINCEUR authorized the return to CONUS of the VP augmentation in the MED (VP-56).

In the Indian Ocean TG 77.5 (ORISKANY) and TG 77.6 (HANCOCK) conduct a turn-over on 8 DEC accompanied by UNREPS/VERTREPS. The ORISKANY group continued on to PT. ASH with an ETA of 11 DEC, while the HANCOCK group proceeds to Subic with an ETA of 17 DEC. Task unit 75.5.5 continues its transit enroute Singapore, ETA 130001Z DEC.

TASK GROUP 77.5  
ORISKANY (CVA-34)  
ENGLAND (DLG-22)  
BUCHANAN (DDG-14)  
PEARY (DE-1073)  
H.E. HOLT (DE-1078)

TASK GROUP 77.6  
HANCOCK (CVA-19)  
PREBLE (DLG-15)  
L. MC CORMICK (DDG-8)  
GRAY (DE-1054)  
BAGLEY (DE-1069)

TASK UNIT 77.5.3  
ASHTABULA (AO-51)  
PLINT (AE-32)  
WHITE PLAINS (AFS-4)  
MISPILLION (AO-105)

TASK UNIT 75.5.5  
BADGER (DE-1071)  
BREWTON (DE-1086)  
KISKA (AE-35)

COMIDEASTFOR in LA SALLE was inport Bahrain while ADAMS departed Karachi 10 DEC. MC CANDLESS was enroute Victoria, Seychelles to arrive on 12 DEC.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

11 DEC In the SIXTHFLT TG 60.1 consisting of USS INDEPENDENCE, USS COLUMBUS, USS W.M. WOOD, USS BARRY, USS VREELAND, USS MANLEY, USS PAGE continued to operate WSW of Crete while TG 60.2 consisting of USS F. D. ROOSEVELT, USS TRIPPE, USS DEWEY, USS RICKETTS, USS YARNELL, USS E. MCDONNELL, USS J. HEWES was inport Athens until 13 DEC.

LITTLE ROCK, with COMSIXTHFLT embarked, arrived in Gaeta today. IWO MIMA and RALEIGH were inport Genoa. The OUTCHOPPING GUADALCANAL was in Rota.

CINCUSNAVEUR 051900Z DEC (S); USCINCEUR 071645Z DEC 73 (S)  
JCS 101959Z DEC 73 (S)

The JCS have authorized the return of SIXTHFLT to a normal operational pattern. Accordingly, the ROOSEVELT task group will depart the eastern MED on 16 DEC to conduct scheduled (quarterly OP SKED) visits to Spanish ports over the Holidays; the INDEPENDENCE task group will visit Athens during the periods 21-26 DEC and 31 DEC-3JAN. (in order to afford personnel of Athens based escorts maximum holiday time with families, a minimum number of escorts will sail with INDEPENDENCE during the 27-30 DEC operating period).

In the Indian Ocean IA SALLE was inport Bahrain, the C.F. ADAMS was enroute Diego Suarez, Madagascar; and the MCCANDLESS is scheduled to arrive in Victoria, Seychelles 12 DEC.

TF 77.5 consisting of USS ORISKANY, USS ENGLAND, USS BACHANAN, USS PEARY, USS HOLT, USS FLINT, USS ASHTABULA operated in the vicinity of Pt. Ash while TG 77.6 consisting of USS HANCOCK, USS BAGLEY, USS GRAY, USS MCCORMICK, USS PREBLE, continued their east bound transit to Subic with a 17 DEC scheduled arrival.

In the SEVENTHFLT this morning the flagship OKLAHOMA CITY was inport Yokosuka for upkeep. DENVER was enroute to 13 DEC arrival in Subic while MIDWAY continued her transit to Yokosuka and is scheduled to arrive on 18 DEC. OKINAWA was undergoing upkeep in Subic until 15 DEC. Meanwhile KITTY HAWK continued her westbound transit to arrive in Subic on 14 DEC as HANCOCK's relief.

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6TH FLEET BUILDUP DURING ISREALI-EGYPTIAN WAR (Cont.)

13 DEC

In the SIXTHFLT TF 60 COMSIXTHFLT (LITTLE ROCK) was in Gaeta. TG 60.1 (INDEPENDENCE group less SAMPSON) was in the OP area WSW of Crete. SAMPSON was in Athens.

TG 60.2 ROOSEVELT group departed Athens.

TF 61/62: TWO JIMA and RALEIGH were in Genoa. ELPASO and LA MOURE COUNTY were in Livorno. HERMITAGE was in Naples.

TF 69 GATO was in La Madalena. SEA DEVIL outchopped 12 DEC and continued her transit to CONUS.

In the Indian Ocean TG 77.5 operated in the vicinity of Pt. Ash. LA SALLE was in Bahrain. Adams was enroute Diego Suarez ETA 20 DEC 73. MCCANDLESS was enroute Victoria ETA 13 DEC.

DOD advises that carrier task group 77.5 (ORISKANY plus four destroyer type ships) has replaced the HANCOCK task group in the Arabian Sea as of 8 DEC. Current plans if embassies concur and Governments grant permission are to send task group 77.5 with appropriate support ships to Mombasa and port Victoria about 22 DEC for port visits over Christmas Holiday. Following the visits, the ships would return to holding position in the northern Arabian Sea.

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